



TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

F A L L - W I N T E R 2 0 1 2

Number 34

GREETINGS



Town Supervisor, David P. Sullivan

Please enjoy this edition of Town Talk and let me begin by thanking all of our residents for their patience and support both during the July tornado and its aftermath. In the days following the disaster I heard numerous accounts of neighbors helping neighbors with clean-up efforts. Truly, the residents of the Town of Elmira demonstrated the finest characteristics of community. Our town employees, especially the highway crew and police officers, along with our colleagues at the West Elmira Fire Department all stepped up in the face of adversity and provided excellent service.

Moving into the fall and winter seasons I can only hope things are a little quieter! I have learned, however, in this business you just never know what issues will trigger a crisis. Rest assured, no matter what each season brings, our seasoned team stands by ready to deliver for town residents and neighbors, too.

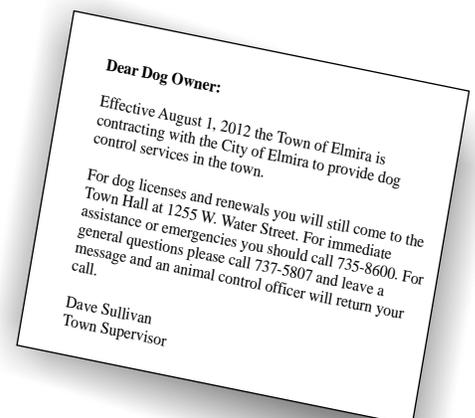
As of this writing, the 2013 budget is taking shape and the board's goal is to lower the overall tax levy for a third consecutive year. Two years ago my pledge to you was, and remains the following: effective, cost-efficient municipal service if possible. Through hard work and creative solutions we will continue to deliver on this pledge.

The work continues and I welcome your comments and suggestions at dsullivan@townofelmira.com.

GREAT NEWS

Proactive Pet Control

In the cost-efficient spirit of shared services, the Town of Elmira has contracted with the City of Elmira to improve overall animal control. All dog owners received notice of this change when it took effect, August 1st. Benefits of the relationship go well beyond dollars and cents. The City's Animal Control Officers bring their years of professional law enforcement experience, as well as outstanding reviews from City residents and council members alike.



Dear Dog Owner:

Effective August 1, 2012 the Town of Elmira is contracting with the City of Elmira to provide dog control services in the town.

For dog licenses and renewals you will still come to the Town Hall at 1255 W. Water Street. For immediate assistance or emergencies you should call 735-8600. For general questions please call 737-5807 and leave a message and an animal control officer will return your call.

Dave Sullivan
Town Supervisor

See interview with the City's Director of Animal Control Craig Spencer on page 3.

SEASONAL SHORTS



Snack Shack Sneak Peek

With summer still sooooo far away, here's something to keep you

sizzling: the new concession stand is well on its way to completion. Freeze pop and frankfurter fans (and their families) will now find all their favorites conveniently located on the east side of the pool complex.

Odd/Even Parking

For ease of snow removal and resident safety, odd/even parking runs from November 1st through April 1st . Since "days" switch in the middle of the night, Police Chief Pete Michalko offers the following advice: "When you come home from work on an even day, park on the odd side and when you come home on an odd day, park on the even side. That way you won't forget as evening turns into overnight."



Lock It or Lose It

Police Chief Pete Michalko warns residents thieves are at work in Chemung County striking unlocked cars for valuables inside. "We had sixteen reports in one night," says Michalko. "In one case, bandits scored \$600 in cash" The best deterrent is a locked door. "If they find car doors locked, they'll move on," Michalko adds. "And, if they always find them locked, they get the message to avoid the Town of Elmira completely."

Raking It In

Leaves, that is... raked leaf pick-up is ongoing until December 7th. Please remember an unexpectedly early heavy snow may disrupt the schedule. Assorted yard waste -- sticks, twigs and clippings -- are best delivered to the Town Compost Facility. They don't belong in your leaf pile.



But Don't Stop-up the Storm Drains

When snow melts or heavy rains prevail all those leaves (and clipped grass, too) can cause more than a bit of "backwash" as far as street flooding goes. Please keep them far away from storm drains. When mowing without a bag, please keep the blower facing the "yard side" not the street side.



Holiday Memories

Christmas tree pick-up begins right after the holiday and continues through January. Please don't bag your tree, just strip it of its ornaments and place it beside the curb.

MORE GREAT NEWS



Centennial Celebration

Everett W. Schott has lived in the town of Elmira on Evergreen Avenue for 62 years. On Tuesday, September 25th, he turned 100. He received myriad cards, gifts and visitors and still had energy enough to attend a party in his honor hosted by neighbors, Jeanne and Don Coon. Another Evergreen dweller, Harriet Heller gave us the heads-up about Ev's major milestone, so in honor of the day, Town Supervisor, Dave Sullivan and Deputy Clerk, Lori Rupp paid a visit to present a commemorative plaque, dedicating September 25th as Everett Schott Day in the Town of Elmira.



When asked what he remembers best about his century on the planet, Schott is quick to reply. "I've always tried to contribute," he says. "I worked on committees at Town Hall and always found the folks there enjoyable, but really I've always been so happy for what I have every day I've never picked out any one thing better than another."

Goin' to the Dogs

Since August 1, the Town of Elmira has contracted with the City of Elmira to provide all Animal Control Services. To find out more, we talked with City of Elmira Director of Animal Control, Craig Spencer.



TT: How does this relationship benefit the Town of Elmira?

Spencer: First off, all we do is animal control. Additionally, all our peace officers are trained in law enforcement and have the power of arrest, so we can handle all complaints from start to finish, including cruelty investigations.

TT: What about animal knowledge?

Spencer: Absolutely, in addition to explaining all the laws, we can also offer suggestions about how to make pets better citizens. In fact, we like to interact with people walking dogs in our jurisdiction to answer any questions they have about animal behavior.

TT: What can residents expect?

Spencer: They'll see us doing targeted patrols on the dike, in the parks, near the pool, etc.

We'll offer 24-hour emergency service mainly for cats and dogs, but we can also assist with wild animals if they're sick or injured.

TT: Where are you located?

Spencer: Linden Place Extension. Our shelter has heated dog runs, as well as a vet and vet tech on staff. If an animal is picked up or seized, that's where they'll be.

24-hour assistance/emergencies? Call 735-8600
Questions? Call 737-5807
Dog Licenses/Renewals? Come to Town Hall 1255 W. Water St.

SUMMER HOT SHOTS

Oh My! How Fast it Flies

Just think, in a few short months we'll be treated to another season of fun in the sun from the folks on the Town Recreation Commission. Summer 2012 included a series of concerts at Pirozzolo Park featuring music of all genres from big band to youth rock. Music lovers brought their families, chairs, food and dancing shoes to celebrate what many hope will be a new summer tradition for the Town!



Fall & Winter Events

Spook House at the Former JCC Building

Children's Holiday Party with movie, snacks and a gift from Santa at the West Elmira Fire Department

For more info watch the Fire Hall sign or check out our website:
<http://westelmirapark.com>

No Worries

Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Chip LeValley assures us that despite the unexpected, end-of-season failure of the main pool pump loader, the West Elmira Town Pool will be repaired and ready to open on schedule next June!



Get To Know Your Neighbors

Mike & Faith Tarby

If you've ever read *Harry Potter*, you will suspect that like Hermione Granger, Mike and Faith Tarby must possess a time turner amulet! How else could they accomplish so many tasks in a single life time and do it all so joyfully! From multigenerational family events, travel, camping, kayaking and gardening to extensive community and church service, they are truly an inspiration.



Both are retired from multiple careers. Faith a nurse has worked at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira College and Arnot Health. Mike retired "the first time" after 30 years at Sears & Roebuck. After a year working through his "honey-do" list, he took a job with the Chemung County Office for the Aging and earned a bachelor's degree from Elmira College that led to his third career with the Gateway Program at Catholic Charities. They have four grown children and nine grandchildren.

Currently, they are involved (individually and/or collectively) with the Elmira Garden Club (celebrating its 85th year in 2013), Catholic Charities' Community Kitchen, St. Patrick's Church/Blessed Sacrament Parish, Catholic Relief Services, Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley and Kiwanis.

Relatively new to the neighborhood, they moved across town from their house of 43 years. Like many, they were attracted by the beauty of West Elmira. What they found has exceeded their expectations. "We have unbelievable neighbors," says Mike. "Before we even moved in, I stopped by to check the house. Within ten minutes, the gentleman next door loaned me a ten-foot ladder to clean the gutters and he showed me the garage where I could 'just put it back' when I was done." Faith adds, "A month after we moved in there was a neighborhood party so we could meet everyone." The Tarbys, like many, fully appreciate "that's just how it works" in the Town of Elmira.

Another Eagle Soars

Gregory J. Thomas has more than just another badge to add to his already crowded Boy Scout sash. The EFA senior achieved Eagle this past spring, completing a very visible, very beautiful service project in the Town of Elmira.



A scout since third grade, Thomas has held positions of responsibility and leadership throughout his scouting career, currently serving as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 43 of Pine City. He is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and continues to remain active.



For his Eagle Project, Thomas designed and completed renovations and restorations to existing signs and flowerbeds at The First Presbyterian Church of Elmira. His project consisted of more than 375 man hours. He worked with several area businesses for donations of landscape timbers, dirt, mulch, solar spotlights, perennials and shrubs. He also recruited church members to maintain each of the 9 flowerbeds.

At EFA, Thomas is an honor student and a member of the Elmira City Youth Court. He is employed by the Chemung County Youth Bureau's Super Saturday Program as a Recreation Leader. He also attends BOCES aviation program. His future plans are to attend college to pursue a career in Air Traffic Control or Airport Management. Thomas is the son of Dawn and Michael Thomas. He also has a sister, Amanda. His inspiration for Boy Scouting has been passed down from his grandfather, William Thomas, Sr.; and his father, Michael, who is also an Eagle Scout.

Town Takes on Tornado

Thursday July 26, 2012 4:05 P.M.

With live electrical lines ripped up with their poles or pulled down by falling trees, police, fire, highway and utility workers all responded immediately to ensure resident safety. They set up cones and barrier tape, rerouted traffic, organized regional reinforcements and fielded more than 200 calls. Power was restored to many residents within hours, most within two days, all by end of day four. The storm and its aftermath tested residents' resilience and proved that adversity brings out the best in most.



STAR GAZETTE NEWS

Supervisor Sullivan expressed his gratitude via the Star Gazette editorial page as follows:



On behalf of the residents of the Town of Elmira I want to thank the many private and public entities that rushed to our aid after the severe weather struck our area last month.

The quick response was extraordinary and allowed the debris to be cleaned up in a timely manner. Many thanks to: Towns of Ashland, Catlin, Baldwin, Erin, Horseheads, Van Etten, Spencer, Southport and Veteran.



Thanks also go to the City of Elmira, Chemung and Schuyler County Highway Departments, the village of Horseheads, NYS Department of Transportation, Chemung County Airport, West Elmira Police Department, West Elmira Fire Department, First Responder, Parmenter's Automotive, Loveless Blacktop, Onda-lay Pipe Marcellus Shale, KRP Trucking, Chesapeake Energy, Seneca Beverage, Hilltop Inn, GST BOCES, Jones Equipment Rental, Custom Concrete and Duke Carroll.

My apologies if I missed anyone. Also, on behalf of the Town Board, a special tip of the hat to the Town of Elmira Highway Department for their excellent service during this crisis.

(August 2012)



Command Central

"We issued an "All Call" at 4:10 and set up our command post at the Fire Department. Two dispatchers fielded more than 200 calls and set priorities. We had one rescue call. Even with all the trees and wires down, the sidewalks up-ended and property damage, I'm so impressed no one was seriously hurt."

Pete Michalko, Chief of Police



Trees Topple

"We had trees down all over the place, but help came from all over the place, too. In fact, right after the storm hit, I had two guys show up on their own. 60 or 70 more showed up over the next few days. We prioritized what had to be cleaned up, taken down or repaired, but we couldn't even touch a tree if wires were involved; that's NYSEG's jurisdiction." Matt Mustico, Highway Superintendent.



What Timing

"In response to the Town Tree Survey, work had begun on the trees identified in immediate need of assistance. Of those in the tornado's path, three we had pruned stayed put; two we hadn't gotten to are no longer there. Needless to say, we'll keep at it, and we'll further address replanting come spring." David Sullivan, Town Supervisor



Clean-Up Cost Sharing

"Cooperation didn't end until all the work was finished. For instance, to lessen the burden on residents, the town picked up the tab for all the sidewalks and the City gave us the topsoil to backfill all the curbs." Matt Mustico, Highway Superintendent

Future Considerations

"After the storm I met with Matt, Jack and Chip (Highway, Fire, Buildings/Grounds & Codes, respectively) to critique our response and look for ways to improve. We all agree that communication is the key. We've already ordered a new radio for the Fire Department dedicated to highway and police frequencies and we'll work together to create a Coordinated Disaster Plan for the town." Pete Michalko, Chief of Police



General Housekeeping

Let's Assess

The duties of the Assessor have changed dramatically over the years and now go far beyond simply valuing properties. The position now demands knowledge of statistical analysis, mass appraisal techniques and New York State Real Property Tax Laws. While the complexities of valuation and volume of exemptions continues to escalate at a significant rate, the lesser known functions of the profession continue to grow and evolve as well.

Town Assessor, Melanie E. Purcell serves as an invaluable information resource where rapidly changing technologies are concerned -- for Emergency 911, the census bureau, law enforcement agencies, planning and zoning boards, as well as historical societies. Tax departments rely on Purcell to correct errors in tax bills and direct bills to the appropriate owners. Additionally, planning, zoning and building code officials appreciate her knowledge of the municipality when dealing with master planning, development and construction issues.

Purcell says, "It's my duty to really know this municipality; it's the foundation of the American government system for us to be accountable and available to the taxpayer."



Melanie and Becky

Smile for the Camera

The Assessor's office is updating photographs of each property in the Town. Melanie Purcell and her assistant, Becky Carpenter will be out in the neighborhoods snapping their cameras straight through fall. If your property is not visible from the public right-of-way you will receive a letter asking permission to access your property for the purpose of taking a new photo and to verify the physical data.

Big is Beautiful

When it comes to house numbers, go BIG. Code Enforcement Officer, Chip LeValley says they should be at least 4" to be seen from the road. "Tiny numbers on the mailbox may be missed, but bold digits that contrast with your house color are much better. With regular changes in emergency personnel (fire, rescue, ambulance) it's better to be safe than sorry when you dial 911."



How Does Our Garden Grow?

Beautifully so. In fact, the Community Garden's inaugural year was such a big hit, there were more applicants for year #2 than garden boxes. As state rules dictate, boxes were distributed by lottery and the calendar set. Garden season runs from October 1 - September 30. Individual gardeners can make private arrangements for late clean-out of hardy crops (kale, chard, squash, etc.) that may grow into the fall.



Fabulous Futures



At its June board meeting, The Town of Elmira recognized three Outstanding Youths for exemplary service to their schools and communities. EFA graduate, Andrew Berg along with Ernie Davis graduates, Meredith Fennell and Perri Sincock (who are currently in 9th and 10th grades at EFA respectively) were applauded by all and presented with plaques.

Recommended by his guidance counselor, Terry Nicklaus, Berg graduated at the top of his high school game, both as a varsity athlete, scholar and all-around nice guy. He spent much of his free time volunteering for various causes and organizations. "Andrew has a ready smile and is an attentive listener," wrote Nicklaus. "He goes above and beyond with his involvement..."



Fennell was nominated by Ann Reinhart, Ernie Davis teaching assistant. An "exceptional young lady with a kind heart, and a beautiful smile" Fennell was reported as routinely calm and focused in her activities, which in middle school included the Ernie Davis Express Club, Circle of Friends, National Junior Honor Society, track, hockey and soccer.



Andrew Berg



In her recommendation letter, Marnie Malone, Ernie Davis Instructional Support Teacher wrote that she hoped her own two daughters would "grow up to be outstanding young girls like Perry Grace Sincock." According to Malone, Sincock earned her endorsement through a combination of high academic achievement, athletic skill and personal strength of character in the face of family tragedy.

All three award winners have substantial resumes of scholarship and service. In light of their accomplishments, the Town of Elmira wishes them, along with all the previous Outstanding Youth Award winners our very best for a fabulous future!



The Fennell Family



Meredith Fennell



Perri Sincock

MORE GREAT NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

All in the Family

The West Elmira Police Department is multigenerational thanks to the addition of William Joseph Michalko, son of Chief Pete Michalko. Michalko the younger signed the book in June and has taken a leave of absence from the Fire Department to attend the Police Academy. Chief says he's "proud as can be" about having the young officer aboard.



Community Spotlight



National Fire Prevention Week Open House Hosts Hundreds

Town residents were treated once again to a great night of family fun, safety information and free giveaways. Fire Chief Jack LeValley says, "We love greeting the kids and their families during school visits and especially at the open house. The more folks know about fire prevention, personal safety and how to access help when it's necessary, the better for everyone."

Fire Chief Jack LeValley's Check List

- ✓ Change the batteries on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ✓ Clean the chimney and/or fire box
- ✓ Confirm fire extinguishers are ready and at-hand
- ✓ Call with any questions

Chip Chimes In

Code Enforcement Officer, Chip LeValley says don't forget those carbon monoxide monitors. Rules require that, like smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors must be sufficiently present and in good working order throughout the house. "Both should be located on every level of the house, generally in the hallways near sleeping units. CO2 units are required near the fuel-burning furnace or boiler as well."

Speaking of Safety

New signs on Church Street at Guinnip Avenue and the Point bookend West Elmira reminding motorists to SLOW DOWN & PAY ATTENTION! With school back in session and days growing shorter, all drivers need to obey speed limits and STOP for pedestrians and cyclists at the CROSSWALKS!

Pedestrians and cyclists can help by wearing light and/or reflective clothing and by using lights on their bicycles at night.



SEASONAL SHORTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Signs & Sidewalk Giveaways

Town folks like to share everything from their preferences for fuel, favorite school or candidate to their cast-off household treasures. While generous and often thought-provoking, they can be hazardous. Code Enforcement Officer, Chip LeValley says it's all about visibility. "All signs and SMALL household items must be on the homeowner's property not the right-of-way, aka the strip of grass between the sidewalk and the road. Large items like sofas are not allowed at all."

ESSENTIALS

-SAVE-

-SAVE-

-SAVE-

Join Us

Town Board Meetings

3rd Monday of the month (Workshop - 2nd Monday)

7 P.M. at Town Hall

(except January, February & December)

Call 734- 2031 for accurate meeting dates/times for Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessment Review, Recreation Commission & Justice Court.

Town Hall Hours M-F 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Justice Court Hours 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Night Court Wednesdays @ 7 P.M.

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 whom 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 IT OUT! Our Website has been refreshed and improved with new links and great information! :www.townofelmira.com

Contact Us

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

David Sullivan (Supervisor) 426-4673 / 734-2031

Jo Ann Sherwood (Town Clerk) 734-2031

Lori Rupp (Deputy Clerk) 734-2031

Joe Cost (Bookkeeper) 734-2031

Liz Lucarelli (Court Clerk) 734-5971

Melanie Purcell (Assessor) 734-1486

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 734-8661



Police Business After Hours 735-8600



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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ELMIRA, NY
PERMIT # 420

TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

F A L L - W I N T E R 2 0 1 2

READ ALL ABOUT IT

News

Everett Schott Turns 100
Cost-Efficient Dog Control
Snack Shack Sneak Peek

Schedules

Swimming & Tennis
Summer Camps

Features

Outstanding Youth Awards
Let's Assess - Property Photos

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

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