



TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

F A L L - W I N T E R 2 0 1 4

Supervisor Notes –

Number 38

By David P. Sullivan



Another busy summer of road work, park activities and meetings has passed for residents and town personnel. Our deepest thanks goes out to the staff and volunteers who do such a great job keeping the Town of Elmira, A Great Place to Live.

A couple of quick notes, the town deer management committee met this summer to discuss the growing population of deer in our area. More than a dozen residents convened and recommended that the town apply for additional deer permits for the fall bow season. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation approved

our application for thirty additional permits and a team of hunters is busy trying to fill those tags. It is our hope that within a couple of years the deer population in our area will be more manageable.

The 2015 Town Budget is shaping up. Residents can expect to see a small decrease in the town tax levy, marking the fifth straight year the Town Board will lower the levy. As of this writing we expect the tax levy to be around \$ 999,000, the lowest since 1998. No services are being sacrificed to achieve this. Our Board feels strongly that strong public safety, road services and recreational programs are vital to keeping our Town moving forward and to meet the needs of the residents.

Please enjoy the upcoming holiday season, stay safe and please let us know how we can be of service.



PASSING THE TORCH

Ken Bush, pictured on the right, retired last year after representing East Hill residents on the Town Board for more than 20 years. Ken's son, Scott (pictured left), was elected to replace his dad on the board. Two great guys who do great things for our community.

A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO REST AND ENJOY NATURE

Thank you to the Chemung Sunrise Rotary Club who, with the help of the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, donated a park bench for the community garden and one for the Chemung river trail, behind the town hall. The benches were installed in August in collaboration with the Chemung County Department



of Aging and Long Term Care to encourage more outdoor activity like walking, cycling and gardening for seniors.

By the way: The town's summer camps were a big success again this year and we are looking forward to another great summer in 2015.

FROM THE TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER

The former JCC building, behind the town hall, is now the Town Community Center (TCC), for use in programs and events for people of all ages. We plan to offer workshops, classes and events for all interests. We partner with the Chemung County Office of the Aging for health and wellness classes in the fall. The center will be used for youth camps during school breaks and summer vacation. The public is invited to use the center for card groups, meetings, private parties and other events.

For more information or to reserve the center, please email Patty Carozza at pcarozza@stny.rr.com. Watch our website for upcoming events!





BACK TO SCHOOL AND COOLER WEATHER MAKE SAFETY ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT

By Fire Chief Jack Le Valley

Fall means school buses, more children outside and warm temperatures inside.

Yes, it's that time of the year when there are many safety issues to remember.

We here at the fire department remind you that school is in session and to be safe and alert when driving -especially watching for stopped or slowing school buses and children crossing the streets.

And remember, to always yield to all emergency vehicles.



Cooler weather means it's time to heat your home. For those of us who use natural gas, we recommend that you have your furnace inspected by a trained and certified furnace inspector. If you heat with alternate fuels (wood, wood pellets, and coal) have your heating system inspected and cleaned, if necessary.

And should the white stuff fall before our next news letter, please keep your nearest fire hydrant clear of snow and accessible -- should the fire department need to use it in an emergency.



Don't forget to check your smoke and carbon dioxide detectors to make sure the batteries are fully charged and the detectors are in good working order.

The fire department's Oct. 8 open house was a success. Many people attended, especially children, to learn more about the fire department, fire safety and other measures we all can take to lead a safer and more enjoyable life.

TIME TO RAKE THE LEAVES

The town's leaf pickup begins October 27. Residents are asked to only rake leaves into the roadside piles. **DO NOT** put branches or plastic bags of leaves in the piles. You may put your leaves in clear plastic bags only.

Enjoy the fall, because winter isn't far away. That's why we remind residents to try and park off of the streets during snow events to make for easier and safer snow plowing.

Christmas tree pick up will start December 29th and continue to January 30th. Also remove lights, decorations and tree stands.



Thank You: Matt Mustico, Town Highway Superintendent

DOMINICAN MONASTERY SAYS GOODBYE AFTER 70 YEARS AS A GOOD NEIGHBOR

1944-2014

By: Scott W. Deming

Town of Elmira Historian

September 2014



For 70 years the Dominican Monastery called 1310 West Church Street home. The facility closed this fall.

The monastery began on June 15, 1944 in the former Elmira County Clubhouse. The clubhouse building was built in 1909 (the second clubhouse) and the building had been vacant for three years prior to it becoming a monastery. The present-day monastery property still borders the country club.

The dioceses bishop appointed the monastery's first chaplain, The Rev. J. Edmund O'Brien, of the diocesan clergy, when the monastery opened in 1944.

The four-acre monastery site is one of the Chemung County's three monasteries, with the facility housing Dominican nuns. It was established by eight nuns from the Buffalo area and the facility has gone through a number of expansions and upgrades over the years.

In 1964, the facility was expanded to include a new chapel and dormitory wings; and has had up to 22 nuns living there at one time.



DOMINICAN MONASTERY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Today the 24,000-square-foot facility features more than 65 rooms, living facilities, suites, conference rooms, libraries, kitchen and dining areas. The daily mass at the monastery ended when the nuns departed on September 2, 2014 to move to the Dominican Monastery in Springfield, Ill. When it closed there were nearly a dozen nuns residing in the facility. The monastery has served many local residents over the years and will be missed by all.

Information for this article was taken from articles in the Star Gazette, photos from Realty USA and information from the Dominican Monastery website.



The main building in 1944

Writer's Note: I continue to look for historic subjects (people, places, homes, historical events, old schools, family history, etc.) about the Town of Elmira to write about. If you have any suggestions or information for future articles please e-mail them to me at demingsw@yahoo.com or call me at 607-733-1177.



SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF EAST HILL



The East Hill Volunteer Fire Department

We are located at 266 Jerusalem Hill Road in Elmira, NY 14901, located in Chemung County of New York State. Our Non-Emergency phone is (607) 734-5535, and our Emergency phone (for wired landlines and wireless cell phones) is 911. Our coverage area is located in the eastern portion of the Town of Elmira. Statistics from the year 2010 show a population of 606 and a total of 267 housing units. Commercial property includes commercial dairy farms, a concrete plant, Town of Elmira Highway Department, Quarry Farm and an upscale restaurant. Our coverage area for the Eastern portion of the Town of Elmira is 15.76 square miles. We send and receive automatic mutual aid to the Town of Baldwin Fire Department on each and every alarm. We also provide mutual aid to adjoining fire districts throughout Chemung County as requested. The East Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. operates out of one station that protects a primarily rural area. Our department is a public department whose members are on all volunteer. The East Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was incorporated on June 23, 1971. Since 1971, we have proudly provided protection to home and family 24 hours a day. We greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone who supports our department, and thank our members and mutual aid departments for their dedicated time, ongoing training and their responsibilities to the community.



Help Us Find You In An Emergency!

We are selling highly visible address signs that attach to your mail box, the signs are Red with highly reflective numbers. The cost is \$20.00 and are available to the general public. Installation is available to residents of the East Hill Fire District at no charge.

Signs can be purchased by filling out the form on this page or on the website and mailing it with a check or money order for \$20.00 (*do not mail cash*) or you can drop it off on Monday nights 7pm till 9pm or mail it to East Hill Fire Department 266 Jerusalem Hill Road, or mail to 5 Cross Road, Elmira, New York, 14901

Any questions please contact us at 607-734-5535 or email easthill2298@verizon.net or www.easthill22.com, or like us on facebook East Hill Volunteer Fire Department East Hill Volunteer Fire Department Fundraiser

East Hill Volunteer Fire Department Fundraiser

I Would Like to Purchase _____ Signs @ \$20.00 Each, House Number On Sign _____

Name _____ Address _____

Phone Number _____ Install: Yes ___ No ___ Vertical _____ Horizontal _____



TOWN RECREATION BOARD GIVES PUBLIC A SPRING AND SUMMER OF FUN, EXERCISE AND EDUCATION

By Dave Pirozzolo, chairman of the West Elmira Recreation Board

Spring and summer was full of fun events in Pirozzolo Park.

The baseball and softball seasons were successful and enjoyable, and we plan to improve the fields to suit the needs of both programs. The Wednesday summer "Bands in the Park" events were attended by families and people of all ages, who enjoyed the music and fun. The tennis courts saw plenty of use, filled through the spring and summer, and are one of the best outdoor tennis facilities in the area.

The park pavilion is a wonderful meeting place for outdoor family get-togethers, thanks to new picnic tables added to the park to support the visiting families.

The annual Spook House event, Oct. 17 and 18 in Pirozzolo Park was a success, and we hope to expand this event into a Fall Festival next year, to lead into the holiday season. Please feel free to contact us with any comments or suggestions.

The children's Christmas party will be held on December 12th at 7:00pm at the West Elmira Fire Department. I would like to thank everyone on the board and all others who helped with the events sponsored by West Elmira Recreation. I urge all residents in the area to come and enjoy the beautiful park.

You may contact us through our website at www.westelmirapark.com. or visit us on Facebook.



NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



By Melanie E. VanNoy
Property Tax Freeze Credit

New York State homeowner may be eligible for the Property Tax Freeze Credit that reimburses eligible New York State homeowners for increased school taxes.

To receive the credit in 2014:

You must receive the STAR property tax exemption. Your school district must comply with the state tax cap. If you QUALIFY, the New York Tax Department

AUTOMATICALLY MAILS YOU A CHECK. There is no need to apply. The state tax department is expected to mail the checks in the fall.

For more information, contact: www.tax.ny.gov or call (518) 453-8146.

You can save more if you turn 65 years of age in 2015?

If you are turning 65 years old in 2015, you could qualify for the Enhanced STAR Exemption.

You may be eligible for a larger school property tax savings if you meet these age and income requirements:

- The property owner will be at least 65 years old as of December 31, 2015 **OR** the property is owned by a married couple or siblings; and at least one of the spouses or siblings turns 65 as of December 31, 2015?
- The total 2013 income of all the owners, and of any owners' spouses residing on the premises, is \$83,300 or less?

If you meet both the above requirements, call the Town of Elmira Assessor Melanie E. VanNoy before MARCH 1, 2015.

Reminder, we are sharing our assessor's duties with Horseheads, and Melanie E. VanNoy is at the Elmira Town Hall Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Becky Carpenter is available Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30.

KODE KORNER

By Chip LeValley, Code Enforcement Officer

Let's talk sidewalks. For once I'll be mercifully brief:

As cold weather approaches the condition of sidewalks becomes more important as ice and snow can cover the cracks and heaves in a sidewalk.



Why does that matter? Let me explain: Let's start with the famous website that contains all the town's laws and ordinances: www.ecode360.com/EL2935. Here you will find Chapter 193 that addresses streets and sidewalks. A new entry, §193-10, pertains to maintaining the condition of the sidewalk itself by keeping it free of dirt and weeds; and in safe and good condition with needed repairs. This means that those cracks and heaves (where one piece or block is no longer flush with the adjoining piece or block) that become tripping hazards, must be repaired.

KODE KORNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Take a moment to walk your entire sidewalk and see if it is in good condition. That simple task provides you a short fresh-air walk and, hopefully, protection from a possible lawsuit from a trip-and-fall incident or a violation notice from me. If you discover a problem in need of repair, get it fixed ASAP.



Now for the snow and ice cover. Chapter 193 also implores citizens, whether owners or occupants (it doesn't matter which), of a parcel of property with a sidewalk, to remove the snow and/or ice **within 24** hours after the end of a snowfall. Commercial establishments must keep their sidewalks clear at all times.

This common sense act of courtesy protects our neighbors, school children and you.

I work for you so please call me with questions or concerns at 734-3608, or e-mail at codeofficer@townofelmira.com. I'll do my best to get back to you promptly.

Contact Us

We Still answer the phones!

David Sullivan (Supervisor) 734-2031
Jo Ann Sherwood (Town Clerk) 734-2031
Lori Rupp (Deputy Clerk) 734-2031
Liz Lucarelli (Court Clerk) 734-5971
Fred (Chip) LeValley (Code Enforcement Officer) 734-3608
Becky Carpenter (Deputy Clerk) 734-1486
Peter Michalko (Chief of Police) 8:30 - 4:30 - 734-2031
Matt Mustico (Highway Superintendent) 734-0199

Councilpersons

Ron Allison 734-6474
Scott Bush 733-5899
Thomas Milliken 732-6760
Karen Krusen 734-9412



Police Business After Hours 735-8600

Scott Eschbach (Caretaker) 734-2031
Melanie VanNoy (Assessor) 734-1486

Town of Elmira
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Elmira, New York 14905

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TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

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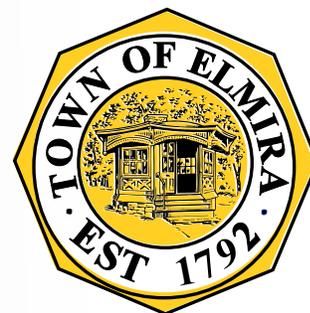
News

Kode Korner

A Comfortable Place to Rest and Enjoy Nature
From the Town Community Center

Features

Serving The Residents Of East Hill
Dominican Monastery says goodbye



Designer/Printer: Copy Express

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