



TOWN TALK

News from the Town of Elmira

F A L L - W I N T E R 2 0 1 7

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Number 43

By Dave Sullivan

BUDGET OUTLOOK – 2018

The Town Board is committed to providing the best possible service to residents at the lowest cost possible. The 2018 tax levy will increase by just 1.82% over 2017. Most residents will see an increase of less than \$8 in your Town tax bill. As a reminder, the town collects taxes on behalf of several entities, so if you would like to see an exact breakdown of your Town-related taxes please feel free to email me at dsullivan@townofelmira.com, or call me at 734-2031.

A few highlights of the 2018 budget include more than \$200,000 in direct costs to maintain and improve our roads; more than \$500,000 on public safety through our Traffic (Police) department; and, nearly \$150,000 for park and recreation programs. Road repair, the safety and care of our residents and quality of life programs remain the hallmark of what we strive to do for our community.

Municipalities like the Town of Elmira are facing many more challenges today than even 10 years ago. There are shrinking resources, property maintenance concerns and increased criminal activity. The challenges are real and our board and staff will continue to advocate for our taxpayers and face these challenges head-on.

I would like to end with a positive reminder of how far we have come over the last few years. The total Town tax levy for 2018 is \$1,041,926. It is 22% lower than the Town tax levy of 2008 that came in at \$1,341,636. Progress is being made and we are proud to serve you.

PARK NEWS

By Scott Eschbach

Pirozzolo Park has made it through another busy season. This year we hosted numerous quality events including 2 major tennis tournaments hosted by GETA, (a regional Singles event in July and a Doubles tournament in September). On the baseball fields, the Cal Ripken Baseball



League hosted the Western NY State 12 & under

Regional

Championship Tournament in July along with several local events throughout the season.

<http://downtownolympia.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/MIP-COLORweb.jpg>.

The summer Music in the Park program provided us with 8 weeks of entertainment again this year. The selection of bands appealed to a full variety of musical genres'. CVSA Soccer returned to our newly renovated Grandview Extension Field that also includes a walking track.



We also had another successful pool season even after enduring several overcast and sprinkled days with very few rainouts. Our Swim Lesson Program is always a must for our future lifelong water lovers. It is amazing the growth that the swimmers make in a two-week period.



One of our biggest “likes” is the adult swim that is held every day from 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm. As the pool closes and buildings get shuttered for the upcoming winter, our “to do” list is in place as we start preparing for next spring.

And finally, 2018 will see the introduction of Pickleball to our park. We added 2 new courts adjacent to the tennis courts. It should be a nice addition to our park.



NEWS FROM THE TOWN COMMUNITY

CENTER:

One of the greatest needs that the Town of Elmira has fulfilled is having our own Town Community Center.

The Town Community Center (TCC) has rentals almost every weekend. People have been booking the center 6 months in advance to ensure that it is available for their event. We have also been hosting Informational



Workshops (which are posted on the Town Web Page) regarding health issues, keeping our elderly safe and strong, and financial planning for the future. We continue to have Bone Builders every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. If interested stop in at the center on one of those days and the instructors will help you get registered.



Over the summer, we hosted our annual Summer Camps which have been a great success and a fun way to keep kids active and busy in the summer. We have wonderful instructors with expertise in the camps offered. Keep an eye open in the spring for the offerings for next summer as we are in the planning stages now. You don't want your kids to miss out on all the fun!



Lastly, we are always interested in new and exciting ways to use the center. If you have an idea or talent that we could use at the TCC, we are always willing to try new things. We want the center to morph into a place where we have weekly events that people can attend, form new friendships, and learn a new skill or craft. If you have an idea, please contact me at pcarozza@stny.rr.com or call me at 607-215-5331. I can also will take care of your rental needs as well and answer any questions.

Patty Carozza

CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL LEAGUE NEWS...

During the long weekend of July 6-9, 2017, the Elmira Cal Ripken Baseball League was the host of the 2017 Western New York Cal Ripken Baseball State Championships at Pirozzolo Park. The league hosted both the 9U division and the 12U division championships. There were teams from the Jamestown, Buffalo, Rochester and Ithaca areas, with 13 total teams in all. This was a great weekend where the Town of Elmira was able to show case our great park. The visiting teams were very appreciative of the pool, the park, and the ball fields. The facilities were immaculate, due to Scott Eschbach and all the volunteers that helped make this such a special weekend for all our parents and players.

As for play on the field, the Elmira 12U team finished pool play 3-0, earning the number one seed in Pool A. They beat Ithaca 12-5 in the semi-final game, to move on to the state championship game. Lou Gehrig, from Amherst, NY was the number one seed in Pool B and played Elmira in the championship game. Lou Gehrig was crowned the Western NY State Champions with a victory over Elmira. The Elmira 9U team went 1-3 in their pool play, with a victory over Jamestown. The Lou Gehrig 9U team also won their division state championship with a victory over North Tonawanda.



Elmira all-stars:

Front Row: Benny Rhode, Jack Carazonni, Louis McHenry, Alex Mosher, Bryce Mashanic, Brady Morrell

Middle Row: Michael Palmer, Jack Stemerman, Damon Jackson, Bobby Cavalier, Tim Miller, Xavier Jones, Ryan Ess

Back Row: Gary Mosher, Tom Morrell, Josh Palmer

Overall, this weekend was a huge success for our community and we look forward to hosting more events like this in the future.

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The following are some Assessment Exemptions available in the Town of Elmira:

Basic STAR – All homeowners.

- Basic STAR applies only to school taxes. You must own the property and it must be your primary residence. New homeowners are to call (518) 457-2036 as New York State is now administrating the STAR program. The new State program requires you pay your total tax bill and the State will issue a refund check. All questions should be directed to the State phone number above.



Enhanced STAR – 65 and older

- The Enhanced STAR Exemption applies only to school taxes.
- You must be the legal owner of the property and it must be your primary residence.
- The property must be a one, two, or three family residence.
- You are eligible the year you turn 65
- The adjusted gross income of all owners and owners' spouses residing on the premises must be \$86,000 or less.

Veterans

- Veterans' Exemptions apply to town, county and village taxes only.
- Veterans will be required to supply discharge papers and a copy of the deed to their property that proves they are the owners.

Acceptable dates:

World War I	Apr. 6, 1917	-	Nov. 11, 1918
World War II	Dec. 7, 1941	-	Dec. 31, 1946
Korean Conflict	Jun. 27, 1950	-	Jan. 31, 1955
Vietnam War	Feb. 28, 1961	-	May 7, 1975
Persian Gulf War	Beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to present		

- The local Veteran's Affairs Office will assist in the completion of your Veteran's Exemption Form. Please contact the local Veteran's Affairs Office for more information at (607) 737-5445.

You must apply for all exemptions by March 1, 2018

Reminder, we are sharing our Assessor, Bruce A. Stanko, with the City of Elmira. Bruce is at the Town Hall on Wednesdays. Becky Carpenter is available Wed - Fri 8:30-4:30. The Assessor's Office is closed Monday and Tuesday, we can be reached at Elmira City Hall at (607) 737-5670 on those days.

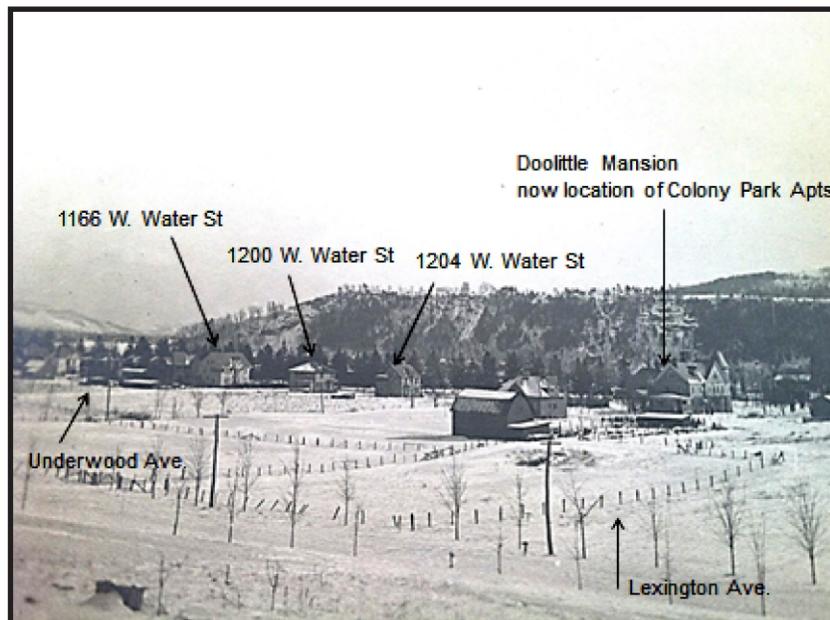
PHOTOS FROM 1915 OF WEST ELMIRA

Scott W. Deming- Town Historian

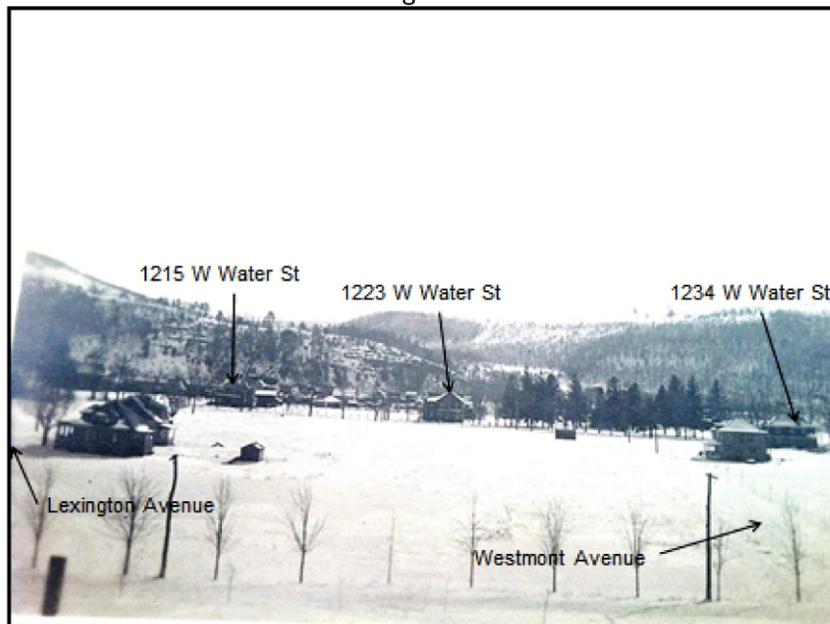
October 2017

These photos were taken by Dr. E. Carl Waples who lived at 1237 West First Street. These photos were taken during the winter of 1915 and they show the transition of West Elmira from open farmland to the populated neighborhoods that exist today. The pictures were located among the town records in the basement of the town hall.

From 1237 W. First Street looking South East towards Underwood and Lexington Avenues



From 1237 W. First Street looking South towards Westmount Avenue

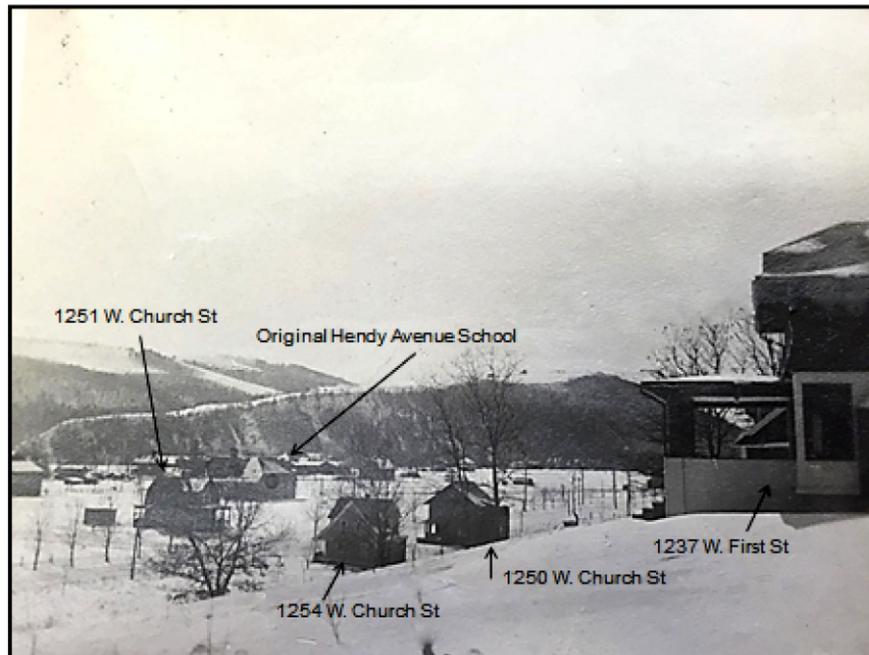


PHOTOS FROM 1915 OF WEST ELMIRA continued

From 1237 W. First Street looking South West towards Durland Avenue



From 1233 W. First Street looking South West towards Hendy Avenue

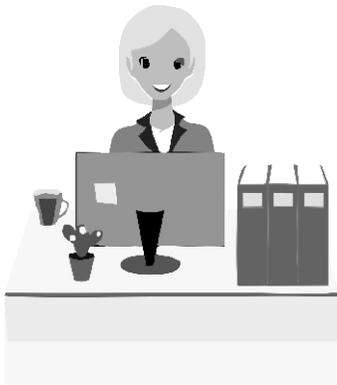


Writer's Note:

I continue to look for historic subjects (people, places, homes, historic events, old schools, family history, photos, 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 607-732-1177

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

By Jo Ann Sherwood, Town Clerk



Often my office receives phone calls from new residents of the Town inquiring about various services the town provides. The one most often asked question is about garbage pick up. The Town does not have regular garbage pick-up for Town residents. Residents must hire a local hauler for their garbage pick-up. Another frequently asked question is regarding leaf pickup. The town does provide leaf pick up in the fall of each year. The leaf pickup usually begins in late October and lasts until the first big snowfall. The highway department will pick up leaves **ONLY**. They allow no brush or twigs and yes, you can bag the leaves. They should be left on the curbside

but away from storm drain areas. The compost pit at the west end highway garage is also available to residents for taking yard waste to. You can get your free Compost Permit at the Clerk's office.

Proof of residency is required with a current driver's license.

After the Christmas holiday, the highway department provides the service of picking up Christmas trees. The Christmas tree pick up begins the day after Christmas. All trees should be left by the curbside bare with all decorations removed.

The Town also provides a variety of services available through the Town Clerk's Office. Our office issues licenses for Hunting/Fishing, Marriage as well as handicap permits. For Hunting and Fishing Licenses you must bring a valid drivers license with you. If you are a new hunter, you will need to bring proof of completion of a hunter safety course. For a marriage license, New York State requires that you provide proof of birth date and current residence. Certified documentation for a divorce or death of previous spouse is also required. The fee for a marriage license is \$40. To obtain a handicap permit you must have a form filled out by your doctor providing proof of disability either temporary or permanent. Handicap permits are only issued to residents of the town they live in.



The Clerk's office also has voter registration forms for you. If you need to change your address or are not a registered voter yet, you can pick up these forms at our office, fill them out, and then mail them to the Chemung County Board of Elections. Exercise your right to vote!

Tax Bills are sent out December 31 of each year. If you are going south for the winter and are leaving before that date and wish to have your tax bill sent to you at your winter address please contact our office to make arrangements for this.

These are just a few of the services available to our residents of the Town of Elmira. As always, if you have any concerns or other questions that we can help you with, please contact our office at 734-2031.



NEWS FROM OUR WEST ELMIRA FIRE DEPARTMENT...

As president of the West Elmira Volunteer Fire Department, I want to acknowledge several recent new members of our department. John Townsend, Elisabeth Wheeler, and Brooke Owen. New members are important for the future of our department and community.

The State of New York does an excellent job of training volunteers. The training is a commitment but when completed the volunteer is prepared to handle different aspects of fires such as suppression of fires, safety of the citizens and fellow firefighters and being a team member.

I also want to highlight what a Volunteer gains from his/her service as a member of the West Elmira Fire Department. The State of New York (through sponsorship of the West Elmira Fire Dept.) offers free college courses, offers a tax credit to volunteer fire dept. members and a cancer insurance program is available.

I'd like to share some quotes from some of our Volunteers:



“I have made connections within this fire department that will stick with me for the rest of my life.”

“Every call we get has its challenges. Through these challenges learning experiences make volunteering rewarding and enjoyable.”

A new Volunteer can learn medical techniques, engineering techniques, community skills, and the reward of aiding the community with their volunteering. Do you have a “fire” in you?

Jim Carozza

NEWS FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

Chip LeValley, Code Enforcement Officer

The importance of Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors and smoke alarms simply can't be overstated! They have saved lives right here in West Elmira and one could save yours as well. The law now requires that a CO detector be installed on the lowest sleeping level (such as in a hallway, for example), and where CO may be produced (near the boiler, furnace or water heater). Of course if everything is electrical in your home then no carbon monoxide is generated and no detector is necessary.

Smoke detectors/alarms are just as important! Again, the law states that a smoke detector be installed INSIDE each bedroom as well as in the hallway outside the bedrooms. The hallway detector may be a combined CO and smoke unit.

Please remember that a new roof, swimming pools, decks all require a Building Permit and if you contemplate doing some work on your house such as an addition or removing some walls to open space, they make require a Permit as well. Give me a call at 734-3608 or e-mail to codeofficer@townofelmira.com and we can make it happen!

Finally, to make living more enjoyable in the Town of Elmira, I ask that we all look to our own property by keeping it neat and tidy...which includes keeping the sidewalk free and clear of snow and ice as well as free of trip hazards and broken sections. Cutting grass and trimming weeds certainly makes the neighborhood attractive. We want to keep the Town of Elmira looking beautiful and a great place to live.

Working
**SMOKE ALARMS
SAVE LIVES**
Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

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

Bruce Stanko (Assessor) 734-1486

Becky Carpenter (Assessor Aide) 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

NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT...

Chief Peter Michalko

West Elmira Police Department



Phone scams amongst the residents of West Elmira appear to have reached an ALL time high. Several of the most common SCAMS we are receiving are from the IRS / back taxes owed, the GRANDCHILD needs money immediately, and You've WON the LOTTERY. I will touch upon each one to bring awareness to each SCAM. The IRS, A Federal Agency, asking for payment via a GIFT CARD from Target or a Money Order should raise RED FLAGS! Your LOCAL Police Department is NOT going to come arrest YOU for unpaid taxes as they often threaten.

Next, you may receive a call from an "Official" who is reporting your grandchild needs money IMMEDIATELY, hang up and call your grandchild's PARENT(S) to first confirm that they are accounted for. Again, the story will be that the grandchild won a trip and was visiting a foreign country, was involved in an accident and therefore they need \$3,000.00. You should IMMEDIATELY right the wrong by calling the WEPD BEFORE you send any payment. The third scam we are seeing is that a resident has WON a lottery they did not enter. In order to collect your Millions you must FIRST send a Handling Fee or Processing Fee to collect your winnings. When in doubt, Please call the West Elmira Police Department, 607-734-2031, BEFORE you send any money as a result of one the SCAMS. We want to make sure YOU are not a victim of a SCAM. We are here to help.

HIGHWAY - MATT MUSTICO

In the fall and winter seasons my reminders are the usual so in brief: Please be sure you have an operating Carbon Monoxide detector in the house; Please shovel the snow off your sidewalk promptly; Please put some extra insulation in the attic.

But the longer reminder is more like a plea for common sense: I've noticed an increasing trend in the last year of placing "gently-used" stuff at the curb for pickup by persons who would give them a second chance at a good life. This happens mostly along West Church and West Water Streets. It's not lost on me the great exposure to hundreds of people that pass through our town each day...and I get that its easier and quicker to dispose of the stuff at the curb than taking it to any of the organizations that re-purpose items, but as well intentioned as it might be, some days it makes our community look less appealing to the eye. It's even worse when the really beat -up recliner, or the not so gently used toilet or a first-generation computer monitor will lay by the curb for weeks.

Please consider taking your used goods to one of the charitable organizations, or having a hauler take it away for you. Think of it as doing your part in keeping the neighborhood vibrant and attractive....and with my thanks!



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 7

READ ALL ABOUT IT

News

BUDGET OUTLOOK - 2018

PARK NEWS

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

NEWS FROM OUR WEST ELMIRA FIRE DEPARTMENT

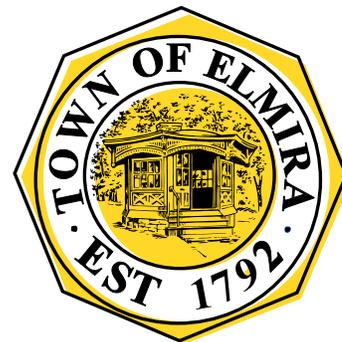
Features

PHOTOS FROM 1915 OF WEST ELMIRA

CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL LEAGUE NEWS

NEWS FROM THE TOWN COMMUNITY CENTER

Designer/Printer: Studio LMG



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