



Warwick, New York

"Warwick is blessed with an enormous pool of proud and caring residents and businesses willing to work together to improve their community as a place to live, work, shop, play and raise one's family."

Communities in Bloom • 2010 International Challenge



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Photo: Bob Breese/bresepix.com

Everyone feels love and pride for the place they choose to live. And everyone expresses that love a little differently. They might write a book about it or put a bumper sticker on their car informing all where they are from. They might volunteer for the local historical society or they might run for office. Some will work at a community garden while others pick up the trash they see during their daily walk.

Warwick is a village that thinks a lot of itself. Those who live here are happy they are here, and they want to make the village even better. They appreciate the care people have taken so far in nurturing this community, with its solid, historic structures and its sound Main Street. And they want to make it even better.

In many ways, Warwick is the quintessential small town. We have a parade on Memorial Day and fireworks on the Fourth of July. The Warwick Historical Society opens its museum homes to the public in July and August and nearby, the Farmers' Market thrives. On Christmas Eve, there's caroling at the Old School Baptist Meeting House and a wassail party at Baird's Tavern.

Warwick's Main Street is like a spine, the central support of the village. Secondary streets radiate outward, becoming progressively less dense. When you get to the edge of the village you know it. There are open fields – places to sled in the winter and picnic in the summer. And there are farms, real working farms, that connect us to the rural history of the Bellvale Valley.

There's a lot of living that gets done on Warwick's Main Street. It begins as Maple Avenue, becomes Main Street, then turns into Oakland Avenue. All along the way, it is flanked by a diverse and healthy range of businesses – antique stores, banks professional offices, bakeries, beauty salons, cafes, bed and breakfast inns, and shops selling everything from carpeting to paper clips to pipe wrenches.

St. Anthony Community Hospital, at one end of our downtown, brings us into the world and takes care of us when we are sick. There are parks and civic buildings. There are small gardens in which to ponder, churches to celebrate, historic houses to study, and restaurants to enjoy with friends on a cold winter night. There are private homes here and many apartments located both above and around the retail spaces.

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Michael Newhard, Mayor of Warwick, says that a hot house of perfect conditions helped Warwick develop its upscale, yet open and creative climate. "The town is well known but far enough away from major highways, keeping it protected yet in the public eye. People see it as a safe harbor for freedom of expression." Warwick's tie to Manhattan, first as a choice location for summer homes, drew famous people like actors Gloria de Haver and Richard Kiley, and Hudson River painter, Jasper Cropsey. Its agricultural history fostered wide-open spaces and mansions, and its proximity to New York City allowed the flow of goods along what was once the King's Road during colonial times.

- NJ Skylands

Historical, hand-carved signs greet visitors to this picturesque community.



Photo: John Stage

Because Warwick is a state and federal historic district, there is also a spectrum of history that's as visible as the geological layers of an exposed cliff. There are buildings from the early Colonial period and the Modern age and a lot in between.

Remarkably, there are no malls here, no outer rings of strip centers or big box stores. Sometimes you have to go to the mall, and there are several in nearby Middletown. But in Warwick, there is only local, convenient, pleasurable shopping.

Warwick won four blooms in the 2003 America in Bloom challenge. We received special mention for our community involvement. The judges said, "Warwick is blessed with an enormous pool of proud and caring residents and businesses willing to work together to improve their community as a place to live, work, shop, play and raise one's family. The Railroad Green Project [a park built in 2000 in the center of town] symbolizes the enormous civic pride found in Warwick. The creation of a professionally designed park area adjacent to the historical railway station and across from a development featuring restored heritage buildings is a joy to see."

We have a diverse population with a broad range of ethnicities, ages, and income levels. In addition to two senior nursing centers, Warwick proudly boasts a nationally recognized over-55 community and several apartment complexes designed for and available to senior citizens. We have many people of this age who are returning to Warwick, who never left, or are discovering the village for the first time.

Each person has a role in his community, something to offer. We are excited to share our community with the world and are interested to learn more about other communities of our size who have decided to take on the Communities in Bloom challenge.

The Village of Warwick thrived after railroads arrived in the 19th century. A caboose, made in 1890, sits east of Main Street and is now home to the village's Chamber of Commerce. There is no commuter rail access to Warwick now, a deficiency that some citizens, wary of attracting suburban growth, consider an advantage.

-- NY Times



Photo: Eileen Patterson

The Village and the Town of Warwick have active recycling programs including a mandatory paper and cardboard recycling mandate. Village residents have been recycling plastics and aluminum for quite some time. Our recycling center is located in the Town of Warwick but Village residents are provided a bi-monthly home pick-up service. The Village of Warwick also has an annual leaf pick-up for residents. These leaves, which must be bagged in bio-degradable paper bags, are taken to a local establishment to be recycled in compost. That compost is made available to the Warwick Valley Gardeners who use it as a base for the nine gardens they maintain in the Town of Warwick.

Twice each year, the Village also provides a brush disposal opportunity for residents which last six weeks each in the Fall and the Spring. This brush is then ground and turned to wood chips which are typically used in the park gardens and pathways. Large bulk trash pick up is also made available to residents each Spring; residents can dispose of large items such as furniture which is then brought to a county-wide depository. The Village Department of Public Works participates with Warwick in Bloom's floral displays by watering the 100 large pots, 25 hanging baskets and 10 bridge plants.

Warwick Grove is an over-55 community nearing completion in the Village of Warwick. The approval process was long and involved due to the desire on the part of both the developer and the Village to preserve the natural environment that existed on the project property. One native resident of that property, who has the dubious honor of a spot on the federal list of threatened species, is the Bog Turtle. At a full grown length of four inches, it's the United States smallest turtle, but this handsome little creature is distinguished by the bright orange patch on each side of its head and its dark brown shell.

Bog Turtles make their homes in swamps, marshy meadows – anything with a soft, muddy bottom. They travel from one wetland patch to another as the seasons or their needs change. Warwick's Bog Turtles were guaranteed a safe passage thanks to a unique bridge/tunnel designed by the developer, Leyland Alliance, that conducts them beneath the community's roadways. Because the turtles do not like dark areas, the bridge is lit by a series of street grates that serve as skylights and are installed across the top of each bridge to light the way. These skylights are supported by steel grids, permitting cars to safely cross the span. The "Leyland Bridge" has become the new standard design requested by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for developments in similar sensitive areas.

Warwick was settled in the early 1700's by the English and Dutch, but its history goes back much further. The Dutchess Quarry Caves near the village of Florida is one of the earliest Indian sites in the Northeast; 12,000-year-old mammal bones and paleolithic projectile points have been found there, according to Richard Hull, a history professor at New York University and longtime Warwick resident. The Minisink Indians hunted and fished in the area before the arrival in the late 1600's of Dutch fur traders, who bartered for beaver pelts, Dr. Hull said.

--NY Times

Fresh flowers, like those at bottom left, are regulars at the weekly Farmers Market in the Village of Warwick, from May through October each year.



Photo:John Stage

How does a library building reflect not just the aesthetic and historical context of the community, but respond also to its social and environmental priorities? The answer lies in a concept known as “sustainable design” or “green building.” It starts with the creation of a collaborative approach by the construction team to ensure that the building maximizes efficiencies in the operations of building systems which lead to energy savings, minimal environmental impact, and a healthier interior environment. Here are just a few ways the new Albert Wisner Public Library will engage the concept of sustainable design in the construction of a new building:

One of the key areas for consideration is energy usage and indoor comfort lies in the heating system. The new library include a geothermal heat pump system that uses very deep closed loop wells to pump liquids into the ground and use the Earth's natural steady temperature to heat or cool the liquid, depending on season, before pumping it back though the building to temper individual areas and spaces. No fuel oil or natural gas is expended in this process, saving money and vital earth resources.

The windows in the new library have been designed to maximize the amount of natural light, increasing ergonomic comfort and minimizing electrical lighting requirements. Technologies allow the lighting control system to adjust automatically to the amount of sunlight present, raising and lowering the number of artificial lights automatically. And, in case you're worried about the amount of heat gain from those large expanses of glass, new technologies help us there, as well. A special glass is specified in the south facing windows to minimize heat gain while allowing natural light to pass through. You may also have noted glazing on the north walls. This allows the staff areas and even the Community Room to receive a very even, non-glare light during the day. This glazing is specified to minimize heat loss.

Some key sustainable design ideas are apparent even before you enter the building. The connection to Memorial Park, with walking trails planned, and the establishment of a sidewalk to Forester Avenue, allow for comfortable pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the facility, which will have bike racks and seating. The landscaping is being designed to maximize native plantings and minimize water consumption requirements.

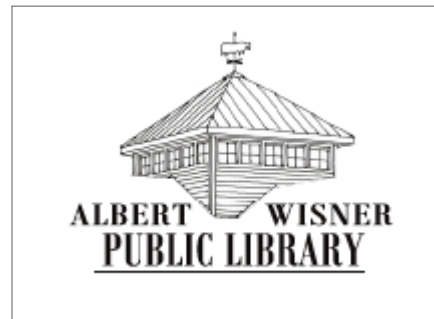
These are just a few of the many ideas being developed for your new Library. The building will reflect not just the community's rich historical and architectural past, but also the increasingly bright future of the Warwick Valley. A region which developed a key railroad system, cleared the Drowned Lands for agriculture, and has always had a spirit of finding a “better way,” will soon have a new Library which has also developed a better way of providing library services. -- Paul Mays, Architect

Sustainable design refers not only to an energy and resource efficient building, but to the creation of usable spaces, which breathe and circulate smoothly, and consider the true long term costs of a building's impact on the local and regional environment, ecology, and economy. A sustainable building uses materials that have been analyzed for "life cycle" costs, rather than just installation costs, and minimizes the use of materials that have not or cannot be recycled or obtained locally.

The Board of Trustees of the AWPL, with the guidance and expertise of architect Paul Mays, committed to building a new building that reflects the importance of sustainable design.



Photo: Bob Van Grol/Vangrolinc.com



Geothermal tubing, like the configuration shown here, is part of the foundation of the new Albert Wisner Library.

Founded in 1906, the Warwick Historical Society is one of the oldest in New York State. The society operates nine museum buildings, three of which are completely furnished houses: the 1810 House, the 1760 Shingle House, and the Ketchum House. There is also Baird's Tavern, which was built in 1766 and features an 18th century tavern room where George Washington, John Adams and many of the other early colonialists stopped in.



Because Warwick is a state and federal historic district, there is also a spectrum of history that's as visible as the geological layers of an exposed cliff. There are buildings from the early Colonial period and the Modern age and a lot in between.

But perhaps the focal point of Warwick is the Old School Baptist Church, built in 1810. This beautiful old structure, with its wine-glass pulpit and barrel ceiling, sits like a jewel in Lewis Park on Main Street. It was purchased in the 1950s when, believe it or not, people were trying to tear it down and put up a parking lot. After being lovingly restored, the church is open for visits, weddings and once-a-year religious services. A new addition to the Society's collection of museums is the Union AME Church (see accompanying *NY Times* article, page 7).

Three of the buildings will be highlighted this year because the Society is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the 1810 House, the Ketchum House and the Old School Baptist Church. Many hands are working to keep those buildings in a condition that will allow them to continue to showcase the history of our lovely Village.

It's hard to believe that this small community offers so much of historic interest, including a 19th century doctor's office complete with an old operating room, an Erie-Lackawanna caboose set on its original tracks, and the sly barn, an 18th century barn filled with old farm equipment and carriages. There are plenty of events as well, including the George Washington Day Picnic and a winter concert series. In Warwick, you are face to face with history every day.



Photo: Bob Breese/breesepix.com

WARWICK JOURNAL: *Uniting to Save a Tiny Church With a Rich Past*

By BARBARA WHITAKER

Published: July 9, 2007 WARWICK, N.Y.

In the early 1900s, the community came together to build the Union African Methodist Episcopal Church on McEwen Street as a place of worship for Warwick's black families, most of whom lived on that street. Residents donated construction materials and lent their horses to haul them, and the local Roman Catholic parish helped with the construction costs, estimated at \$1,500.

Today, the community is once again banding together, this time to save the hundred-year-old American Gothic structure, which must be removed from 98 McEwen to make way for a new building to serve the congregation, now more than 100 strong.

But time is running out. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new church was held on Saturday, and the old structure must be removed within the next several weeks to make way for construction of the new church, which has been aided by significant donations of time by the engineer and architect on the project and financial support from the community. The congregation was forced to replace the old building because it had high operating costs -- heating alone ran \$1,300 a month in winter -- and because the membership had outgrown the living-room-size space.

The cost of picking up the 20-by-40-foot church and hauling it to another site, which would be donated by the Historical Society of the Town of Warwick, is estimated at \$35,000 to \$40,000. Only \$5,000 has been raised, but contractors and other businesses are examining what role they might play in the move. Officials of the historical society say that if they cannot move the church, they will have it dismantled and stored in a barn. "If there was a way the people of Warwick Village could come over and lift it up and move it, it would already be done," said Peter Lyons Hall, who created and runs a Web site about the Warwick Valley.

The Rev. Vernon H. Peters, pastor of the Union A.M.E. Church since April, said the outpouring of help was a bit overwhelming.

"It's just a blessing to be part of this," he said. "I think it is a wonderful thing to see the town come together so the next generation and the next generation will be able to see something great took place here."

"Our strength as a community is that we really understand our history," said Mayor Michael J. Newhard. "We understand where we came from, and we're respectful of that. The more we identify our diversity, the stronger we become as a society."

The white clapboard church is considered significant to the village for both its architecture and the story it tells. Michael Bertolini, curator for the historical society, said the church, built in 1906, is a classic example of American Gothic architecture at its sparest. "Obviously, when you come to a little village, it was minimized to the most simple thing you could do," he said. Most of the stained-glass windows are plain, but they were made of opaline glass in the manner of Tiffany. The steeple is small, but the original bell is still there.

The historical society has preserved another church, this one the more stately Old School Baptist Meeting House, a Federal period structure. In addition, four other historic homes and buildings have been saved by the historical society and turned into living museums. Until now, the stories of slaves and servants of African descent who worked on farms and estates in the area have been largely obscured.

The first account of African-Americans in the area dates to 1755. A large influx was recorded in the mid-1800s, as workers came to serve wealthy families who moved to Warwick from New York City, about 60 miles south. It was around then that African-Americans began to settle on McEwen Street.



Moving truck navigates through Warwick's narrow McEwen St, on its way to a new home.

The New York Times

Photo: Peter Lyons Hall

Warwick has always been proud of its trees. When we were a dairy community, stately maples were planted along our main roads to shade the milk wagons on their way to the creameries. A few of these lovely trees remain today, a remembrance of our past.

In 1966, some residents expressed concern about the tree trimming practices used by the local utilities to protect their distribution lines. In response, the Village board appointed a five-member Shade Tree Commission and established a Shade Tree Ordinance, which was incorporated into the Village Code. The original Commission, and subsequent Commission members, was charged with protecting the Village's fine trees. Since then, no tree can be planted or removed along village streets and highways without the express approval of the Commission. Each year the Village includes funding in the municipal budget to assist in the maintenance of trees in the community. With financial assistance from the local power company, some of those funds are spent cutting tree limbs away from power lines which results in significantly less power loss during storms and windy weather.

The Commission requires the replacement of trees that have been removed. Developers who wish to expand our roadways are also obligated to provide trees along each new street. Each year the Village budget provides the Commission funding to plant additional trees. Since its inception the commission has planted over 1000 trees, many of them ornamentals that announce the arrival of spring with their blossoms. The practice has encouraged residents to plant trees on their property and to contact the Commission with questions on how to maintain their existing trees and improve their landscaping with new trees.

The Shade Tree Commission also works hard to keep their message strong among the youth of the community. Each year the Commission sponsors an Arbor Day celebration with the students class of the local elementary school. The commission arranges for a forester from the Department of Environmental conservation and the Mayor to speak to the children. A local merchant sponsors the purchase of several hundred seedling trees so each child can take a tree home to plant in their yard. The parents of today's children speak fondly of the trees they planted and many grandparents point to the trees, now quite large, that were brought home planted on Arbor Day in years past.

Over the years the Warwick Valley Gardeners has planted many trees in celebration of this event. The last Friday of the month of April has been designated Arbor Day in New York State, and the club always participates with a planting ceremony and observance.



Photo: John Stage

The Village of Warwick offers several parks to her residents. Each one is a destination for various recreational activities. The parks are well used by the entire community.

Memorial Park is a 56 acre site located in the center of the Village. It is home to the Warwick Little League and the Mens' Over 35 Softball League. The baseball and softball fields are beautifully maintained by the volunteers from those organizations. Known as the nicest baseball and softball sports facility in Orange County, the fields have been skinned for clay infields with state of the art drainage systems all paid for with donated funds. Their field grass is maintained by local landscapers who volunteer their service for the leagues. In addition to Little League, the park houses our skatepark. Our skateboarders are talented athletes who practice their skill on a variety of stunts in the park. In 2009, an Eagle Scout project to erect a full half-pipe was successfully completed with the help of local business donations and the handiwork of the Boy Scout Troop #445. The Warwick Summer Arts Festival will add a finishing touch to the skatepark with a wall painting similar to those that have been painted in Stanley Deming Park. The Arts Festival Skatepark project will incorporate the teaching skills of local arts and the painting talent of their students.

There is also a pavilion available for use by large groups. The pavilion becomes a covered ice skating rink in the winter which is open to the public and maintained by the Village Public Works employees. A walking connection to the new public library was added for the convenience of residents who use both facilities. This park is also the location of the Warwick Firemen's Carnival each summer; the carnival lasts for one week and culminates with a fantastic fireworks display just in time for July 4th.

Memorial Park contains several memorial gardens; the Fireman's Memorial Garden is a beautiful dedication to volunteer fireman who have contributed to the community over the years; the 911 Memorial is dedicated to the memory of seven Warwick residents who lost their lives during World Trade Center terrorist attack; the Doc Beers Garden is also located near the entrance to the park as well. (See Floral Displays).

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It's difficult to compartmentalize the "landscape of Warwick" because Warwick itself is part of what makes Orange County a beautiful landscape. We are 35 miles from New York City and we pride ourselves on being a weekend retreat for those who want to get away from the city. Whether it is skiers stopping by the ski Mount Peter or apple lovers coming up for a taste of fall, or golfers who want to chase the ball at Hickory Hill Golf Course, everyone stops to take in the view from the tip of Mount Peter and each time it will take your breath away. In fact, many residents come over that mountain and sigh as they say, "Wow, we live here!". Hikers making their way along the Appalachian Trail even get to catch a glimpse of our beautiful Valley.



Photo: Eileen Patterson

Turfgrass sod farmers in Warwick's hamlet of Pine Island, home to the famed 10,000 acre Black Dirt Region, will be donating sod to cover a playing field in Memorial Park. Today's improved turfgrass varieties, preferred by professional NFL teams for safety reasons, are very effective in reducing pollution, too. Turfgrass traps and removes dust and dirt from the air. 2,500 square feet of lawn absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and release enough oxygen for a family of four to breathe.

Stanley Deming Park is also located in the center of the Village. This is a busy park because it holds the playground! As the warm weather of spring arrives, the park fills with moms anxious to have their children exercise away their cabin fever! High school students make good use of the sandy volleyball court, and the newly refinished and lighted basketball courts are busy right up until 9 each night during the Spring, Summer and early Fall. In addition, a no-cost summer arts, crafts and activities program is held at Stanley Deming for elementary-aged children. Each summer the Warwick Arts Festivals hosts several free concerts at the natural amphitheater at Stanley Deming; the hill is filled with families and friends picnicking and dancing to the various bands and dance programs.

Lewis Woodlands is a preserve that was maintained by the Orange-Dutchess Garden Club. The deed was recently transferred to the Village of Warwick. The gardens have historic significance to the Village and a plan has been designed to pay homage to the original gardens installed a hundred years ago by a founding family of Warwick. Many of the species in the park are not native to Warwick but have continued to flourish. Treated mostly as a walking trail, the gardens paths are in the process of being cleared by the Village.

Grant funding was provided by New York Department of Historic Conservation which covered the cost of consultation from an historical landscape architect to identify the origin of many of the species, complete a narrative of the property's history, and provide a plan to restore much of the original design. As funds become available, the property will continue to be cleared and an outdoor museum will be completed for residents interested in an outdoor history of one of Warwick's founding families.

Hundreds of people from all over the world will converge on Pine Island for one day in the summer of 2010 when the hamlet will be the venue for the Turfgrass Producers International Summer Convention Field Day.

The visitors will be among about 800 people from 30 countries expected to attend a week-long sod grower's convention in New York City July 26-31. The field day in Pine Island on Thursday, July 29, will be hosted by Chip Lain of Pine Island Turf Nursery, Inc., who is Vice President of the worldwide organization.



The genesis of Warwick in Bloom is traced directly to a community beautification committee formed among several horticulture professionals in the community. What began as a charge to beautify an already charming Village, became a thriving volunteer organization that has continued for nearly 10 years. After entering and winning the America in Bloom competition in 2003, the committee has continued to raise funds and bring volunteers together to keep the business district in glorious bloom beginning in early Spring and continuing with new plantings until the winter holidays.

Each year, the horticulture committee gets together to plan a design for almost 70 large containers and 30 hanging pots and bridge planters that will adorn the Village streets. All plants that appear in the pots and planters are grown locally as a result of the meetings in January. These growers each have horticulture enterprises in the area and they have found many residents come in looking to duplicate the Warwick in Bloom designs in their homes.

The Warwick Valley Gardeners and the Warwick in Bloom Busy Bees meet at a local greenhouse on the Sunday after Mother's Day each year to plant the pots. The Village Department of Public Works employees water the pots based on the advice of the Warwick in Bloom growers. Gray water from our sewer treatment plant is used for the watering process along with a pump purchased by a local business. The Warwick in Bloom Busy Bees take turns dead-heading and keeping an eye on the plants during the season.

The latest addition to the Warwick in Bloom beautification effort is the permanent installation of a planter at the intersection of Route 17A and Route 94 – a gateway to the Village. After years of trying to find effective solutions to beautify that intersection, the Village of Warwick assisted in the engineering of a permanent planter surrounded by pavers. It was completely funded by donations from area business and residents; the planter does not interfere with traffic and provides a long-awaited beautiful entry to the Village.

In addition to the work of the Warwick in Bloom committee, the Village is replete with lovely gardens – nine in all – all funded, planted and maintained by the Warwick Valley Gardeners. Their mission to develop an active interest in gardening and horticulture through lectures, workshops and regular attendance at meetings; to aid in

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Warwick in Bloom asked that "gray" water be used to irrigate these plants. A local business provided a 250 gallon tank; with the addition of a pump, the DPW brings gray water from our sewer plant and waters the displays twice per week.



Planting diagram Brochure, below left, provides a way to share the plan for the annuals plantings with the community each year."

PLANTS OF THE YEAR

Calibrachoa 'Minifamous Orange' & Minifamous Apricot - Million Bells
This small petunia-like flower is a prolific bloomer and is available in a wide range of colors. It's perfect for containers and hanging baskets. Best in full sun. Attracts hummingbirds! See it used in our summer street planters.

Pelargonium x peltatum 'Blizzard White' & Mandarin Ivy Geranium
Ivy geraniums are among the "toughest" plants we know. They tolerate heat and need very little maintenance during the growing season. We highly recommend their use in hanging baskets.

Cleome 'White Sparkler'
Cleome 'White Sparkler', also known as spider flower, is used as the centerpiece of our summer pots. Cleome tolerates extreme heat and is attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. It's an ideal choice for the home garden in a full sun flower bed.

ARBORVITAE WITH ...
Spring - Pansies and daffodils
Fall - Mums and ornamental cabbage
Winter - Berries and branches

THU - Arborvitae - Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald'
VED - Pansies - Viola cornuta
NAR - Mini daffodils
NAR - Narcissus 'Tete a Tete'
VIN - Vines vine

THU - Arborvitae - Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald'
CHR - Chrysanthemum x morifolium
ORN - Ornamental cabbage
VIN - Vines vine

Bridge Planters
PEL - Pelargonium x peltatum 'Blizzard White'
PEL - Pelargonium x peltatum 'Mandarin'

Winter Planters (not shown) to include
Arborvitae with berries and branches

Main Street Summer Planters

Spring Planters

South Street Planters

Fall Planters

COL - Cleome 'White Sparkler'
PEL - Pelargonium 'Rocky Mountain Orange'
CAL - Calibrachoa 'Minifamous Orange' & 'Minifamous Apricot'
SCA - Scaevola 'Tiger Eye'
LOB - Lobelia 'Techno Dark Blue'

SAL - Salvia guaranitica 'Black & Blue'
COL - Coleus 'Sedona'
SCA - Scaevola 'White Fan'

THU - Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald'
VED - Pansies
NAR - Narcissus
VIN - Vines vine

COL - Coleus
SCA - Scaevola
SAL - Salvia
COL - Coleus

THU - Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald'
CHR - Chrysanthemum
ORN - Ornamental cabbage
VIN - Vines vine

COL - Coleus
SCA - Scaevola
SAL - Salvia
COL - Coleus

THU - Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald'
CHR - Chrysanthemum
ORN - Ornamental cabbage
VIN - Vines vine

Illustrations: Sharon Williamson

the protection of wildflowers and birds; to encourage the conservation of natural resources; to promote garden therapy and to stimulate interest in community service and civic beautification is obvious and appreciated each time a resident of or visitor to Warwick sees their gardens.

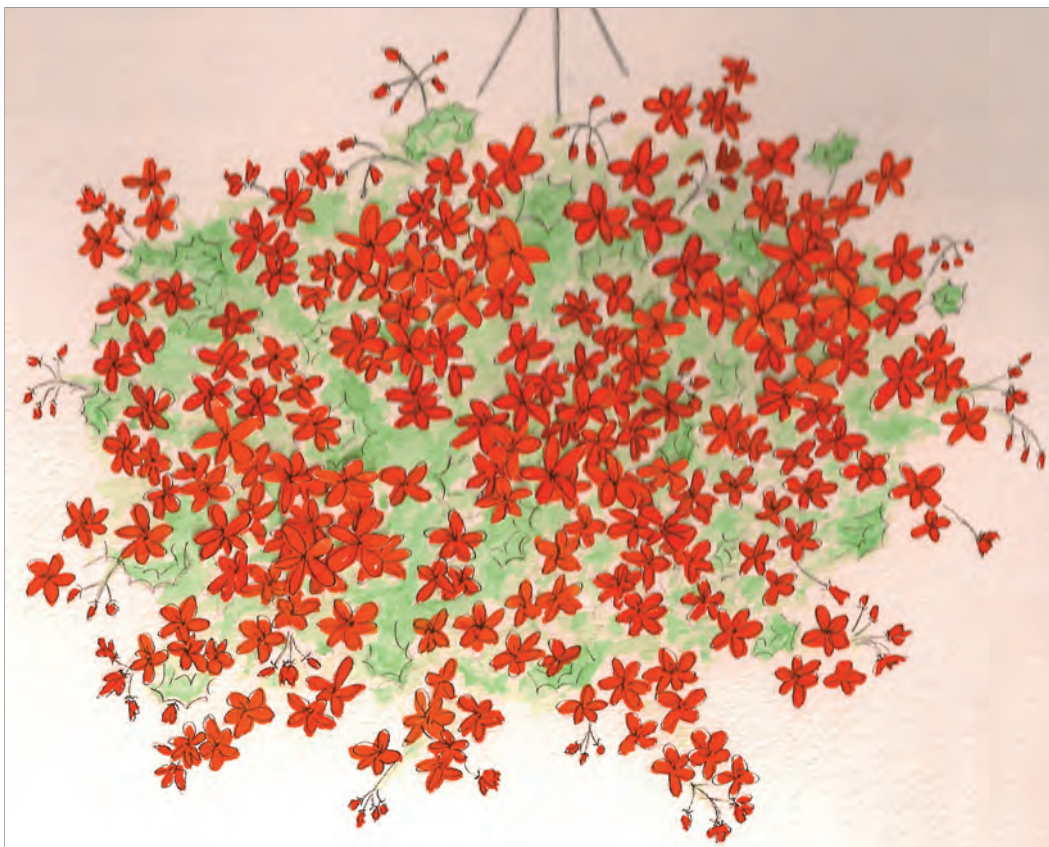
At the Village Hall Garden, a combination of perennials and annuals are employed in the design of this miniature garden alongside the Village Hall. In 1995 the Warwick Valley Gardeners were invited to design and plant a garden at the monument to Dr. Beers at the entrance to Memorial Park. Perennials provide the backbone for this garden and annuals bring plenty of color to the area. Each plant in this garden is named for an animal – Dr. Beers was a well-loved Veterinarian in Warwick. In 2002 a monument was built to remember Town residents lost in the World Trade Center disaster. The WVG assumed the planting and maintenance of the garden surrounding the monument and it now flowers for three seasons.

In 1996 the Village of Warwick installed a beautiful sign near Forester Avenue to welcome visitors. The WVG were asked to create a planting to complement the sign. Now, years later it is planted for four seasons. In 1997 the Village of Warwick installed a charming sign along Routes 17A/94 at the north end of the village to welcome visitors. The WVG now plant this lovely spot for three seasons. The Gardeners largest and most ambitious project to date is the garden at Railroad Green. This garden is located in the center of the Village and is planted and decorated for four seasons. Masses of annuals, perennials, and ornamental grasses border the park, in addition to raised planters, which change with the seasons. This project grows every year as it is now planted for four seasons, adding new perennials every year. The Gardeners plan for months to create a Holiday display at Railroad Green. Trees are lit with balls of light, as well as the perimeter of the park. In 2009 year the seating area was decorated with green swags and garlands; this year swags on the lampposts and a live tree to the center of the stone planters was added. All of this was done in time for Warwick's Home for the Holidays Celebration the week before Thanksgiving.

In addition to bringing these beautiful gardens to the community, the Warwick Valley Gardeners work on other community-minded projects. A new sub-committee has been established to forge a relationship with Warwick Valley High School to create an annual scholarship in the field of horticulture. Arbor Day is a nationally - celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care.

Garden Therapy is the use of live plants to heal and rehabilitate people. The WVG has a very active program at our local nursing facility, Mt. Alverno. Our club meets every few months to conduct workshops, such as simple planting and flower arranging projects.

Hanging Baskets, below left, adorn the Main Street shopping district



Illustrations: Sharon Williamson

Warwick in Bloom, winner of the 2003 America in Bloom competition, is gearing up for another win; this time in the international arena. As the only community in the United States to enter the international challenge, we are excited to bring the trophy home to Warwick!

Back by popular demand, Warwick in Bloom presents the second annual Show Me the Door Tour. Village of Warwick residents and business owners are encouraged to take part! Participants can showcase their gardening and decorating talents for the areas surrounding their doors, gates or other entryways. Warwick in Bloom Chairperson, Eileen Patterson, hopes participants will use their imagination to create a special door. Eileen said, "The display can include hanging baskets of flowers or fruits, flags, arbors, lawn ornaments, or any other combination of plants and features; which ever reflects a passion to create a welcome for visitors and friends."

Show Me the Door judging will take place on July 24, 2010; the entry fee is \$20. Participants' doorways will be included on a tour map that will be sold for \$10.00 each and will include directions for self-guided tours. The tour map can be picked up at Railroad Green Park in Warwick between 10-4. In addition, raffle tickets will be available for sale – the public is welcome to try their luck at winning one of the lovely garden-themed prizes.

All entries will be judged by a Warwick in Bloom committee of judges. Trophies will be awarded to First, Second and Third place for Best Residential Door and Best Business Door. In addition, special recognition prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Most Effort and Most Whimsical.

Information about entering the contest can be found on the Warwick in Bloom website (www.warwickinfo.net/wib) and in various garden centers and retail stores in the community. Participants and restaurants interested in sponsoring the Tour Map may contact Deborah Krol at 845-988-9621 or email her at warwickinbloom@yahoo.com.

Participants' doorways will be included on a tour map that will be sold for \$10.00 each and will include directions for self-guided tours. All entries will be judged by a Warwick in Bloom committee from each Village.

During 2009 the story was featured in the magazine "Our House."



Website design: Peter Lyons Hall

The Warwick in Bloom Committee

- Eileen Patterson, Chair
- Deborah Krol, Secretary
- Marge King-Porter, Treasurer
- Deborah Sweeton, Horticulture Chair
- Maureen Charde, Busy Bee Coordinator
- Sharon Williamson
- Regina Wittosch
- Simonee Tierney
- Francis Cantone
- Michael Newhard, Village Mayor
- Claire Gabelmann
- Linda Fey, Warwick Valley Gardeners Club President
- Sue Wilke, Pine Island Liaison
- Mary Reilly
- Nancy Colgan
- Gabrielle Werner
- Peter Lyons Hall

Community Liaisons

- Patricia McConnell, Town of Warwick Historical Society President
- Virginia Snigur, Warwick Valley Schools PTA Council President
- Nancy Colgan, Warwick Valley Schools Liaison
- Helen Lee, Warwick Valley Gardeners Liaison
- Elizabeth Reese, Summer Arts Festival Coordinator
- John Christison, Warwick Merchants Guild Liaison
- George McManus, Warwick Valley Lions Club President
- Christine Bodeker, Warwick Youth Soccer League Liaison
- Lisa Laico, Albert Wisner Public Library Liaison
- Marsha Talbot, Better Homes and Gardens Rand Realty Liaison



Photo: John Stage

As part of WVG's mission to develop an interest in gardening and horticulture, the club continues to donate books to the Warwick Valley library system. Often, these donations include books for children, to instill an interest in gardening at an early age.

The WVG contribute to the Junior Master Gardener program and to a park program by a girls' high school in Newark, NJ

Planters, below left, adorn the Main Street shopping district.