

## CHAPTER ONE COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The extraordinary historic and cultural features in Fishkill have helped shape the character of the community. The Village's historic streetscape and unique features contribute to the sense of place one



*Community Block Party*

feels while walking through it. Special events and civic facilities and historic buildings such as the Village Hall, Blodgett Memorial Library and the Dutch Reformed Church contribute to an overall sense of community. Village residents intend to cultivate and maintain this sense of community.

**Community Events:** The Village hosts several community-wide events that are attended by Village residents and many others. The Craft Fair, Fireworks, the Block Party, Village Wide Yard Sale, Halloween Parade, Holiday Party and Tree Lighting, as well as the Memorial Day Ceremony, the reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup> of

each year, and the summer farmers market are held at various times throughout the year and contribute to the strong sense of community that Village residents possess. Events such as these are important to cultivate and maintain. Residents feel it is important to emphasize and enliven the history of the Village.

**Access To Information:** The Village maintains its own website which allows 24/7 access to information related to the Village Board, community emergency services, news, event schedule, board meetings, village codes, plans and programs. The ability to find out what is happening in a timely manner is important to the residents as indicated in the public workshop. Village residents indicated that keeping the website current was also important.



*Farmers' Market*



*U.S. Route 9 southern gateway*

**Gateways:** The Village's distinct, dense character is very different from that of the surrounding municipalities. Whether traveling Main Street, Route 9 or Jackson Street, one intuitively knows when they have arrived at the Village. This sense of identity is important to reinforce since it leads to a greater appreciation of community identity and civic pride. The Village can strengthen this sense of identity by establishing or improving gateway locations at Village entrance points. Improved entrance signs coupled with enhanced landscaping at the Village borders on major roads should be considered.

**Preservation of Historic Character:** Residents overwhelmingly indicated in the first public workshop that preserving the historic character of the Village is of primary importance. Throughout the plan this theme is revisited. The Village should ensure that the goal of preserving and maintaining the unique historic quality is implemented and should address this issue through the zoning code.

**Comprehensive Plan:** As time passes, issues and perceptions change. New legislation, evolving trends and regional changes will impact the Village. To continue to meet the needs of the community into the future, the Comprehensive Plan should be reviewed every 5 years to determine whether any changes or modifications are necessary.

**Summary:** The Village of Fishkill is a close-knit community whose residents share a great appreciation for the historic character that the Village possesses. The Village hosts and participates in a wide variety of community events to help keep that strong sense of community amongst all. It is this sense that will ensure that the Village continues to thrive and that its character will be preserved.

#### DECLARATION OF INTENT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

**GOAL: To preserve the character and unique quality of the Village and enhance the sense of community among Village residents.**

- 1.1 The Village will continue to seek the preservation of historic buildings through planning and zoning regulations.
- 1.2 The Village will promote historic tours to enhance the understanding of Village history for Village residents and visitors.
- 1.3 The Village will maintain and update the Village website to make information available to a wide population.
- 1.4 The Village will enhance or establish gateways at major gateway locations to define entrances to the Village to help maintain the sense of community identity.
- 1.5 The Village will encourage neighborhood or civic organizations to identify collective concerns and organize community involvement.
- 1.6 The Village will review the Comprehensive Plan every 5 years to ensure that this guiding document remains current.