

# The Bluff Point Association (BPA)

www.bluffpoint.org

June 2015

2015-1

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## President's Report

As I write this (4/23/15), snow is gently falling on the Bluff but the first green shoots of Spring are clearly visible. The heavy crop of nuts and acorns last Fall served the wildlife well during the cold hard winter and the squirrels, turkey and deer seem to be doing just fine. In spite of the cold winter, the heavy snow cover may have helped to shield the grapes from substantial damage. Here's hoping for a successful growing season. The ice on the lake was very thick this year and when it went out on the east branch (April 10th, the same day as last year according to Karen Geyer's notes), a gentle wind was blowing from the Southwest. The high piles of ice on the east shore could be seen for a week.

The Bluff was recently featured in the HGTV show "Lakefront Bargain Hunt-Pursuing a Penn Yan Peace of Mind" featuring Nick and Marie Coco. They purchased a lake view home off Culver Hill Road just north of Lynn Wuytowicz's. We welcome the Coco family to the Bluff.

Special Date to remember: **Saturday, July 18th – Annual Meeting at Keuka College Library** (8:30 AM coffee, 9:00 – 11:00 meeting)

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Tom Close ~ BPA President

## BPA Welcomes New Neighbors to Bluff

The BPA would like to extend a warm welcome to two new neighbors on the Bluff.

Kim Akers and Jim Woodard relocated to their Skyline Drive homestead in May 2014. Jim maintains a dental practice in Horseheads while Kim works out of her new, on site, Personal Fitness Training Center. A certified Personal Fitness Trainer since 2009, Kim opened "Kim's Fitness and Nutrition" shortly after their move into the Skyline Drive property. Kim's focus on total body conditioning includes core and cardio drills as well as balance training and weight loss programs. Her

personal approach allows for a flexible schedule and tailor made fitness and nutrition programs. A free fitness consultation is provided to all incoming clients providing Kim with the information she needs to design a fitness program specific to your needs. Kim has been heading up the fitness boot-camps at the Wellness Center in Penn Yan, but plans to start up boot-camps on site beginning this Fall. Fitness Boot Camp usually involves a four week commitment, 2x per week.

Kim grew up in Campbell and spent summers on Keuka Lake. Jim hails from New Paltz, NY and has summered on Keuka for over 30 years. Jim and Kim still maintain a cottage on Lower West Lake Road. Jim is an avid biker, and enjoys biking the Bluff, when he can find the time.

Stop by to say hello to Jim and Kim and their two black labs, Zya and Zach and welcome them personally to the Bluff! Right on the corner of Culver Hill Rd and Skyline Drive. By the "Kim's Fitness and Nutrition" sign! For more information about signing up for your very own personal fitness consultation, contact Kim at 607-738-9646.

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By now you've probably had the opportunity to view or at least have heard the buzz about the HGTV Show "Lakefront Bargain Hunt: Pursuing a Penn Yan Peace of Mind" that aired recently. The episode featured Nick and Marie Coco of Penfield who purchased a home on the Bluff last June. For years the Coco's rented a summer home in the Naples area, then finally last Summer decided to look into buying a vacation spot that they could call their own. They settled on a lovely home, situated on five acres, just South of Keuka College overlooking the Lake. Shortly after closing on their new home, the Coco's happily took advantage of the option to purchase the adjacent 5 acres, when the opportunity arose, providing 10 beautiful acres of wooded land for their enjoyment!

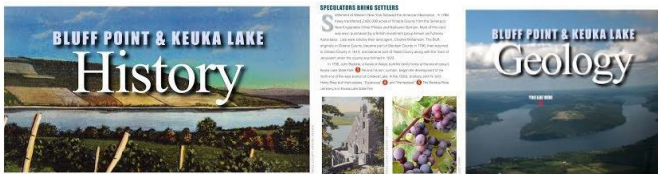
## **New Neighbors cont'd**

Although still busy working, Marie as a loan officer at Canandaigua National Bank and Nick as a residential appraiser, the Coco's, along with their daughters' families and their, between them, three adorable little poodle mix puppies, are thoroughly enjoying spending time up at the lake in their little "peace" in the woods with breath taking lake views and are excited to be taking part in all the Finger Lakes has to offer.

We welcome the Coco family to our neighborhood on the Bluff.

## **BPA to Unveil New 54A Overlook Signs**

Everyone who has ever been curious about Keuka Lake, its unique shape and its history will want to visit the new interpretive signs sponsored by the Bluff Point Association (BPA). A reception for the unveiling of the signs (one featuring the regional Geology and another documenting the History of the founders and developers of the area) will take place on Saturday, June 20 at 1:00 PM at the scenic overlook on Route 54A just east of Branchport. The creative team that developed the signs will be on hand to answer questions and light refreshments will be served. The event is part of New York State's "Path through History Weekend."



The signs began several years ago as an idea within the Bluff Point Association, with support for their placement by the Town of Jerusalem. The creation of the signs involved a collaboration of BPA and Jerusalem History Club members who researched, wrote and designed them. Both Town and County historians shared their knowledge. A geology professor, a geology researcher, and a geomorphologist from Cornell University and the Museum of the Earth contributed their expertise. Photographs, paintings, historic postcards, diagrams, stills from a video on glaciers, and an annotated map illustrate the signs. The two signs, each one measuring three feet by five feet, are made of durable, colorful high-pressure laminate material.

Thanks to a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, an historical marker, recognizing the original 7000 acre Beddoe Tract, was erected at the overlook last Fall. Also recognized in 2014 was the Rose-Beddoe Cemetery, located in Keuka Lake State Park, which was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Bluff Point Association and its creative team hope the new signs will inform the growing number of visitors to the area to the unique past of Keuka Lake and the region. Even longtime residents may find something new to them in the signs' many facts and visuals.

Images of the signs, text, and acknowledgements of the many people and resources that contributed to the project may be found at [www.bluffpoint.org](http://www.bluffpoint.org).

## **Eastman at Keuka Summer Program**



Once again Keuka College will be hosting the Eastman School of Music Summer Educational and Performing Arts Camp for students in grades 6 through 9. This summer's Eastman@Keuka will take place July 12-24 and will draw students from around the globe and across America.

In past Music Camps Eastman@Keuka has hosted concerts, on campus, that are open to the public. For more information go to:

<http://www.eastmanatkeuka.com/> Eastman@Keuka on Facebook, Eastman.Keuka@esm.rochester.edu or call 585-274-1400.

## **Landowner Rights and Liabilities**

Each year the Yates County office of the Cornell Co-Operative Extension holds a Saturday morning meeting to address topics of interest to residents of our area. This year's program, held on March 7, was "Understanding Landowner Liability Issues: Liability, Posting, and Trespass". David J. Colligan, Esq., an attorney who specializes in this area of the law, addressed issues of duty, negligence, criminal trespass and common misconceptions around New York State's General Obligations Law § 9-103. Colligan stated the importance of verifying what protections your insurance policy provides for in the event of injuries or accidents. A homeowner "should not assume that their homeowner's policy protects their rural property as well as their home, even if their home is located on the rural property." (1)

Environmental Conservation Officer: Josh Crain, discussed topics pertinent to NYS DEC Division of Law Enforcement while Ed Nemitz-Yates County Sheriff's Department provided clarification of NYS Penal Law § 140.00 which deals with criminal trespass, conspicuous posting and right-of-way. David Mashewske of the Yates County District Attorney's Office addressed the law in regards to responsibilities of landowners "for actions of a trespasser, hunter, invitee, and other categories of people who may access your property". Other relevant issues such as timber theft were similarly addressed. A plethora of information detailing the days' topics was provided attendees. The Cornell Co-Operative Extension Office in the Yates County Office Building has a wealth of information available to residents on a wide range of topics including agriculture, energy, the environment, food and nutrition, forestry, gardening, and home and family. You may visit their website: <http://www.yates.cce.cornell.edu>, their Facebook page, or stop into the office to see what is available.

(1) Colligan, David J. *Landowner Liability and Insurance*. The New York Forest Owner 50:2-March/April 2012

Colligan, David J. *Landowner Legal Rights: Liability and Duty Owed Persons Using Your Property*. The NY Forest Owner 29:4; 7; Jul/Aug 1991

Other Helpful Resources:

Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District  
315-536-5188

NYS Forest Owner's Association 800-836-3566  
[www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)

NYS DEC Division of Law Enforcement:  
585-226-6706 or Lt. Matt Lochner @ 315-836-6137

NYS DEC 24 Hr. Enforcement: 877-457-5680 or  
844-332-3267

DEC Firewood and Invasive Insect Hotline:  
866-640-0652 or [firewood@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:firewood@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Hogweed Hotline:  
845-256-3111 or [ghogweed@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ghogweed@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

DEC Regulations regarding Nuisance Wildlife:  
For what animal pests can be taken without a license and under what circumstances see:  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/81531.html>

## **Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium**

With the welcome of this much awaited "lake" season, I'm eager to tell you about what's in store for the Finger Lakes Museum & Aquarium (FLM&A) in 2015.

By way of introduction, my name is Natalie Payne and I'm the newly-appointed Executive Director of the FLM&A. I have been with the Organization since its inception in 2008. To say the least, it has been an exhilarating journey to date! I've watched the Organization grow by leaps and bounds, been a part of its many ups and downs, and still find myself energized and eager in continuing to make the Museum & Aquarium become a reality.

My objective in the next few months (and beyond) is to re-energize and move the Finger Lakes Museum & Aquarium forward. This includes:

1. Work with FLM&A Educators in developing a solid and exciting educational program plan for all ages that begins this season.
2. Complete the current, first-phase of construction which includes:

## Finger Lakes Museum cont'd

- a. The building, landscaping, and outfitting of the Creekside Center (which WILL open this summer!)
  - b. Finish the envelope (exterior) and a few interior pieces at the current building
  - c. Complete Green Infrastructure components
3. Work with FLM&A architects, exhibit designers, and construction teams in developing a master plan for the entire site that will divide out the work to be accomplished into two final phases.

This is an aggressive plan, but having watched the Museum & Aquarium fluctuate with big dreams and big goals for years, my objective is to now lead us in achieving these through accomplishing small, realistic goals...one at a time. By remaining focused and steadfast in moving from one goal to the next, I believe that this "big dream" will become a reality.

I am dedicated and committed to making this happen and welcome your insight, support, or just a friendly hello at any time. You can visit with me at the new field office on the Museum & Aquarium site or contact me by phone or email using the information provided below. Thank you again for your continued interest in the FLM&A. Please visit [www.fingerlakesmuseum.org](http://www.fingerlakesmuseum.org) to stay up to date on progress, activities, and more!

Natalie Payne | Executive Director  
Cell: 607-368-3054  
Email: [npayne@fingerlakesmuseum.org](mailto:npayne@fingerlakesmuseum.org)

## **SLPWA to Monitor Keuka Outlet**

By 2014 Seneca Lake Pure Water Association was monitoring three streams: Catherine Creek, Big Stream and Reeder Creek. SLPWA has since decided to include the Keuka Outlet in its monitoring program. Data collected is provided to the State DEC.

The goal is to help community residents improve the stream's water quality and ultimately the quality

of the water in Seneca Lake, through scientific information. By identifying the source of contaminants in each stream, the community can work together to correct the causes and protect Seneca Lake.

Stream monitoring is conducted in cooperation with the Community Sciences Institute (CSI) in Ithaca, New York, a state and Federal certified laboratory, which also provides community education and volunteer training.

Information on the 2014 testing results and more about the program can be found at:

[http://www.senecalake.org/Stream\\_Analysis.html](http://www.senecalake.org/Stream_Analysis.html)

More data is available at the Community Science

Website at: <http://communityscience.org/database/>

SLPWA will be holding an event "What is in Your Watershed" soon for the Big Stream results. Please watch the SLPWA website and local papers for more details.

This program is supported through the generosity of the Tripp Foundation of Elmira and Fresh Water Futures, Petoskey, MI, as well as funding from SLPWA membership. Donations are gratefully accepted and can be made through the website at: [www.senecalake.org](http://www.senecalake.org)

Interested in volunteering? E-mail us at [slpwa@senecalake.org](mailto:slpwa@senecalake.org) and let us know which stream you are interested in and your address and phone number so we can contact you for training. Training for new Keuka Outlet volunteers will be held July 1 at 4:00 at the Dresden Hotel. This will get them ready for the next testing event on July 13.

Contact Mary Ann Kowalski @ 315-759-3761  
<http://senecalake.org/contact-us/>

## **Sign Up for Nixle Alerts**

Want to be notified of road closings, local weather alerts and public safety notifications? Sign up at <https://local.nixle.com/register/> to receive timely alerts on your phone and/or email account.

## DEC Seeks Anglers to Diary Catch

The DEC is seeking anglers to participate in our Angler Diary Cooperator Program. Anglers can assist the DEC with management of the Keuka Lake fishery by providing information related to their fishing success. Since 1968 Diary Participation has ranged from 22 to 81 cooperators. Anglers record trip and catch information in diaries we provide which are returned in a self-addressed stamped envelope, also provided, at the end of the fishing season. A summary report detailing the results along with the old diary and a new diary are returned to the Cooperator prior to the start of the next fishing season. Data from this program provides DEC with valuable information on growth rates, stocked fish recruitment and angler success rates which help guide our management efforts. New angler cooperators are always needed to make our annual statistics more reliable.

The following is a summary of the results from the 2014 Keuka Lake Angler Diary Program:

A total of 1,836 legal sized lake trout were caught in 2014. Catch rates were still higher than for diary cooperators on Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes. 98% of all salmonines caught were lake trout. Rainbow trout, brown trout, and Atlantic salmon contribute little to the overall cooperator catch. Lake trout population in Keuka Lake continues to be sustained entirely by naturally reproduced fish. High catch rates, while good for the angler, are likely a result of an overabundant lake trout population and somewhat depressed forage population leading to few memorable or trophy sized fish, poor growth and condition of lake trout, and negative impacts to other lake fishes.

Catch of both Atlantic salmon and brown trout has been very poor the last decade. In general, catch peaked in the late 1980's and mid 1990's and has since declined. The original goal of the brown trout and Atlantic salmon stocking programs was to add diversity to angler catch. Although the goal was initially achieved, recent results from the diary program suggest that these stocking programs need to be re-evaluated. Recent changes in the lake as a result of introduction of aquatic invasive species, decreases in forage abundance, and increases in lake trout abundance may be negatively impacting brown trout and Atlantic salmon

Rainbow trout catch was identical to last year with 21 reported. Forty-three percent of the legal sized rainbow trout (N=16) were released. Hopefully rainbow catch will continue to increase, however current evidence suggests that the rainbow trout fishery in Keuka Lake and its tributaries has significantly declined within the last several decades. We believe rainbow trout populations may have been impacted by abundant lake predators (i.e. lake trout) and decreased forage abundance, resulting in increased predation by lake predators when the young rainbow trout enter the lake. Additionally, there have been periodic stream blockages and mainstem flow issues in Cold Brook that may have inhibited the adult spawning population from reaching adequate spawning habitat. Regulations to reduce the harvest of rainbow trout in both the lake and the streams were enacted October 2012.

To learn more about the diary program contact the Region 8 Fisheries office at (585) 226-5343. Or you may sign up online at the Bureau of Fisheries contact page, click on Region 8, and provide us with your name, address and the lake(s) for which you would like to record your fishing trips.

Brad Hammers

NYS DEC Division of Wildlife and Marine Resources, Bureau of Fisheries Region 8

[Brad.hammers@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Brad.hammers@dec.ny.gov)

585-226-2466



## **Penn Yan Central School District Update**

The lack of timely information from Albany this year certainly put the pressure on meeting the deadlines imposed on the budget process. Due to great team work, all deadlines were met and we feel we were able to send a very responsible budget to the taxpayers. Our budget-to-budget increase of 1.62% and a 1.42% tax levy increase were below the Consumer Price Index and the State-imposed tax cap of 1.85%. Some districts in our area had to override the tax cap. Due to careful planning and conservative budgeting, we were not put in that position.

After voter approval last fall on the Capital Project, we are now working on implementation. Phase I deals with the Middle School Roof over the Gymnasium. This project has made it through the State Education process and has been bid. The incoming bids were very favorable and the project was awarded to Roth Roofing. Work will begin around July 1 and will be finished no later than August 21<sup>st</sup>. Let's hope for some good weather and this work should be done even sooner! Phase II is in the planning stage with final decisions being made on the work in all buildings. The most substantial portion of the project is flooring at Penn Yan Elementary. The Architects and the District are currently working on choosing the best product to solve our problems with the design of the floors. Most other decisions are moving along, and we plan to test some different types of flooring before moving forward with final decisions. This plan will be sent to the State Education Department for approval in the next few weeks. Final approval times are currently taking at least eight months. That means this work will not be initiated until next summer at the earliest.

The College Board has announced that the Penn Yan Central School District earned a position on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll! The Annual AP District Honor Roll recognizes districts for increasing access to Advanced Placement course work while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Honor Roll Districts defy the expectation that expanding access automatically results in a decline in the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or better. Reaching these goals indicates that our district is successfully identifying

motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit from rigorous AP course work.

We have been very successful in obtaining small-to medium-size grants recently. The Nord Family Foundation visited the district in April to see the multiple pieces of equipment we were able to purchase with the \$50,000 grant obtained from them last summer. Our Technology Education classrooms are now outfitted with updated equipment, which will afford our students excellent opportunities to obtain jobs in technical fields because of the experience they receive here at the Penn Yan Academy. We have also received a grant from True Value Hardware with the support of Carey's Hardware. The district will be the recipient of 40 gallons of paint that will help to spruce up some areas in our buildings.

We wish you all a wonderful summer - and please take advantage of visiting the schools to see all of the wonderful activities happening.

Howard J. Dennis  
Superintendent Penn Yan Central School District  
[hdennis@pycsd.org](mailto:hdennis@pycsd.org)  
315-536-3371

## **Keuka Outlet History**

The Iroquois Indians were the first to occupy the outlet areas at both Penn Yan and Dresden. In 1788 members of the Society of Universal Friends arrived to establish their own community. Many entrepreneurs harnessed the water power of the "Outlet Creek". Richard Smith's establishment of the first mill in 1790 was the beginning of almost 200 years of industry on the Outlet. At one time the creek powered as many as 40 gristmills. The remnants of some can still be seen today.

When the Erie Canal was finished in 1825 there was a clamor for a way to transport goods from the Keuka Lake area to larger markets. Crooked Lake Canal, was begun in 1831, creating such a connector canal alongside the creek without interrupting the waterpower of the creek. The Canal was a costly, labor intensive project that was also a great engineering feat. Crooked Lake Canal was ultimately closed in 1877.

## Keuka Outlet cont'd

After the Canal was abandoned, a group of mill owners bought the right of way for the purpose of building a railroad to link Penn Yan and Dresden. It was officially called the Fall Brook Railroad, though railroad men called it "The Corkscrew Railroad" because it had so many twists and turns. The rails were primarily laid on the old canal towpath and the trains operated for almost a century. Damage incurred by Hurricane Agnes in 1972 precipitated the rail road's demise.

Today the trail is a place of natural beauty where layers of stone remind us of its Ice Age creation so many years ago. The water runs quietly in some areas and roars over falls in other spots, still demonstrating its power. In many places along the trail, the remains of mills, the canal prism and the

old railroad recall the days of bustling activity. The Keuka Outlet Trail is a place to contemplate years past as well as a place to be refreshed in the present. It is maintained and improved by the Friends of the Outlet, an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group: visit the site at [Keukaoutlettrail.com](http://Keukaoutlettrail.com)



### Presentation of Overlook Signs

Bluff Point Association, Town of Jerusalem and Jerusalem History Club cordially invite you to the unveiling of Geology, History, and Beddoe Tract signs

Scenic overlook, Route 54A, East of Branchport, Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 1pm

Contact: 315-317-2826 or Email to [katoasperm@hotmail.com](mailto:katoasperm@hotmail.com)

## Membership Renewal

We are pleased to provide you with this issue of the Bluff Point Association Newsletter. To continue receiving future news and to support our many efforts affecting the Bluff, we invite you to renew or join the many other Bluff residents who support the BPA with their annual membership gift of \$15.

### Bluff Point Association, Membership Form, 2015-2016

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Address 1

Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bluff Point Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Address 2

Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal     New membership    Annual **Membership** Fee is \$15. Make checks payable to **Bluff Point Association**.

Send checks to: Bluff Point Association, PO Box 72, Bluff Point, NY 14478

Please check here if you would prefer to receive newsletters electronically.

I am including my contribution to the Bluff Point Fund, check made out to The Finger Lakes Land Trust; memo: Bluff Point Fund.

## **Bluff Point Association**

Tom Close, President 315-536-2779  
Wendy Disbrow, Treasurer 585-813-3173  
Martha Johnstone, Secretary 315-531-8889  
Lynn Wuytowicz, Communications 315-536-0912  
lwuytowicz@gmail.com  
Marcia English, Director 315-536-9436  
Rodge Williams, Director 315-536-3456  
Ray Copson, Web Support 315-536-6891  
Nicole Landers, adviser 315-536-5123  
Lisa Saether, liaison FLLT 315-536-2620  
Art Adams, *ex officio* 678-319-0984

## **Federal**

29<sup>th</sup> District House of Representatives

### **Representative Thomas Reed**

Email via website: <http://reed.house.gov>  
202-225-3161 Washington D.C Office  
607-654-7566 Corning Office

## **New York State**

### **Assemblyman Phil Palmesano**

E-mail: [palmesano@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:palmesano@assembly.state.ny.us)  
607-776-9691 Bath Office

### **Senator Tom O'Mara**

E-mail: [omara@nysenate.gov](mailto:omara@nysenate.gov)  
607-776-3201 Bath Office

### **Governor Andrew Cuomo**

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224  
518-474-8390  
[www.governor.ny.gov](http://www.governor.ny.gov) and choose 'Contact'

## **The Bluff Point Association**

P. O. Box 72  
Bluff Point, NY 14478  
[www.bluffpoint.org](http://www.bluffpoint.org)

## **Yates County Legislators**

417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527  
[www.yatescounty.org](http://www.yatescounty.org)  
[legislature@yatescounty.org](mailto:legislature@yatescounty.org)  
Ph: 315-536-5150

Gary Montgomery, Eldon Morrison, Margarty Dunn,  
Doug Paddock

## **Town of Jerusalem**

3816 Italy Hill Rd., Branchport, NY 14418  
[www.jerusalem-ny.org](http://www.jerusalem-ny.org) Ph: 315-595-6668

Jim Balyszak, Watershed Inspector 315-536-5188

Pat Killen, Supervisor  
Mike Folts, Town Board  
Max Parsons, Town Board  
Mike Steppe, Town Board  
Daryl Jones, Town Board  
Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk  
Vernon Brand, Town Assessor  
John Phillips, Town Code Enforcement Officer  
Rob Martin, Highway Superintendent

## **Community Meeting Dates**

### At Yates County Office Building

County Legislature: 1pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month  
Yatescounty.org ( Legislature Link ) 315-536-5150  
Budget Hearings Oct 28 & 29 in County Bldg  
County Planning Board: 7pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month

### At Town of Jerusalem Offices 315-595-6668

Planning Board: 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of month  
Zoning Bd. Appeals: 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month  
Town Board: 7pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month

### Penn Yan Central School Board: 315-536-3371

7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of month at Penn Yan Academy

**Annual Meeting, Sat July 18**  
**54A Overlook Sign Dedication, Saturday June 20**