

The Bluff Point Association (BPA)

www.bluffpoint.org

NOVEMBER 2017

From the Editor

This edition of our newsletter celebrates the social, cultural, agricultural and natural components of our beloved Bluff. We, as residents of this unique real estate, are committed to keeping the history of this place alive for future generations to see, even if the beautiful places no longer exist. John Wilder has shared his memories of The Chestnuts, a grand house that once stood on the grounds of Keuka Lake State Park and Marcia English reminds us of the current treasure we have in the Garrett Chapel. The grape industry of that time differs greatly from what we see today, but the people of this place have remained appreciative of what the presence of grapes does for the beautification and economic health of this region. We welcome Sally White, as a new Bluff resident and new contributor to this newsletter, as she helps us rekindle our appreciation for a gentle giant that is disappearing from our midst, the hemlock. Of course, modern times give way to modern problems, and we must make the best decisions for ourselves regarding the business we undertake. Art Adams has carefully pointed out the most pertinent questions raised at the Bluff Point Association Annual Meeting held this past July. We hope that you continue to enjoy reading the compilation of information we bring to you a few times a year. Please share with friends and neighbors, as we are best represented when we are best informed.

Nicole Landers, Editor

Bluff Point Association Annual Meeting Recap

The annual meeting of the Bluff Point Association was held on Saturday, July 15, 2017 at the Lightner Library on the Keuka College campus. Sixty members signed the attendance sheets. Tom Close, president emeritus of the BPA, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The minutes of the 2016 annual meeting were approved. Treasurer, Rodge Williams, reported an ending balance of \$5,945.49. Wendy Disbrow, Marcia English, Fred Geyer, and Rodgers Williams were elected to two-year terms on the Board of Directors. Natalie Payne, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Museum, spoke of new developments at the museum: new entrance and interpretive signs, use of an Environmental Facilities grant to create environmentally sensitive landscaping, and the Creekside Center and its canoe and kayak programs. The museum's nearby Townsend-Grady wildlife preserve will be developed with trails and a boardwalk. Town of Jerusalem Supervisor, Patrick Killen and Wayne Ackart, Town Engineer, provided an overview of the proposed Jerusalem sewer project to include East Bluff Drive, West Bluff Drive, Indian Pines, Crescent Beach, the Keuka Lake State Park, and Branchport. The total cost is projected to be \$17 million with grants and other funding opportunities available. The project must be approved by a referendum before it can go forward. Vernon Brand, Town of Jerusalem assessor, spoke of the revaluation of all properties in the town scheduled for 2018. Statements of physical descriptions and estimated market value of

each parcel of land will be mailed to property owners in March, 2018. Tim Cutler spoke about the process to update the Jerusalem Comprehensive Plan every ten years. This document is an important part of the town's application for grants to cover community improvement projects. Dennis Carlson, president of the Keuka Lake Association, spoke on the continuing need to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Keuka Lake. The Steward Project provides volunteer inspectors at boat launch sites to check for residues of plant and animal life on boats. Fund raising efforts for the Garrett Memorial Chapel continue through the season. A resident inquired about establishing a "trash district" on the Bluff to ensure the ability to deal with issues as they occur. Annette Toasperm spoke about two events to be sponsored by the Jerusalem History Club: "The Plank Road" and "Finger Lakes Formations". The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Martha Johnstone

Sewer Expansion Update

The Town of Jerusalem has presented an update on the possibility of expanding the sewer system at our 2016 and 2017 annual BPA meetings. A number of questions still need to be answered in order for the project to proceed. The Town Supervisor, Pat Killen, has prepared a second survey to see if there is support for the project to move ahead. A previous online survey received only 29 responses. The link for the seven question survey is:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T26XJDB>

It is important for us to respond to the survey so that funds are not expended to proceed with the referendum and design if it looks like the project may not go forward. Larson (Engineers) Design Group revised a

Wastewater System Study in April 2015 and has presented an update at our annual meetings. Eventually a referendum for potential users needs to pass in order for the project to be completed. This referendum will include all persons identified on the property deed and generally absentee ballots are not permitted. The BPA has asked that if the project advances to the referendum stage that it be held during the summer when more potential customers are able to vote. There are extensive expenses to proceed with the project that will not be expended if it looks like the referendum will not pass. Therefore our responses to the second online survey are very important. Apparently the time and cost to identify only those who may become customers means that this second survey may include folks that will not be included in the expanded system. Fortunately, the survey asks for the lake address so it may be possible to identify only those who will be potential customers and able to vote in any referendum.

A number of questions were raised at our July 2017 annual meeting:

Water quality testing indicates that the major source of "pollution" comes from the Penn Yan wastewater treatment facility. If runoff, which includes some septic waste is excluded, this is true.

However, the main problem is (stormwater) inflow into the Penn Yan sewer system. All the wastewater, including inflow from the Town Of Jerusalem (TOJ) is metered and already included in our allotted capacity. The cost to upgrade and reduce inflow from the Penn Yan sewer system will not be paid by the TOJ. The Penn Yan Waste Water Treatment Plant does have the capacity to properly treat our additional flow once the inflow problem in the Penn Yan system is corrected.

The project does not give different areas the chance to opt out by area. We

understand that this is possible. Areas such as Branchport, Keuka Lake State Park, and the museum may possibly become customers without, for example, the tip of East Bluff Drive.

The TOJ over bought capacity at the Penn Yan Waste Water Treatment Plant. The amount of capacity purchased was in a very early contract with Penn Yan which has been questioned and litigated a number of times. It is true that the TOJ has unused capacity which is available for our potential expansion.

Since the TOJ already has capacity in the Penn Yan system to serve the potential new sewer district, the Penn Yan portion of the bill to existing TOJ customers will decrease. This is true. This also reduces the cost to new customers. Existing customers will not be able to vote in the required referendum. The survey identifies potential cost and asks if the cost is within that range if you would like to be a customer.

Personally, I am in favor of the project even though in the short range it will cost somewhat more than my current aerobic system. There is no question that our septic waste is bad for the lake, although I believe that agricultural runoff and waste from Hammondsport are really a worse problem.

Art Adams
Retired civil engineer
BPA Board member

Adopt-A Highway

Ten local residents made the roadside litter pickup a total success on Monday, September 11. We collected 4 full bags, a large wood beam, a 2x4, large cardboard section AND 1/3 of a dollar bill [these random items were all found by Patty Larzelere on her first roadside pickup!]. We all helped fill the 4 bags and we donated 50

returnable cans and bottles to the Branchport Library. It was a good day for the Town of Jerusalem and Bluff Point Association. We got compliments and thanks from 3 NYS Dept of Transportation workers at the office. All expressed their appreciation for our help keeping the road cleaned up. Tom Close and Keith Toasperm have perfect attendance at the last 5 pickups - Gold Stars, Guys! Thank you again for helping and hope to see you in the spring.

Respectively Submitted,
Annette Toasperm, Coordinator



Keith Toasperm and Marcia English after a successful morning of cleaning up Rt. 54A.

Keuka Lake Watershed Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA)

In 1995 the Pace University Land Use Law Center in White Plains, NY developed a training program called the Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) to address general land use matters in the suburban and rural communities of New York State. In 2007 the 6 towns and 2 villages that surround Keuka Lake passed a resolution committing support for community leaders and volunteers to participate in a Keuka Lake Watershed LULA. A first round of the program was held in January and February and a second round was held in

September and October of 2008 with a combined total of over 70 participants. Prior to the LULA program, the staff of the Genesee Finger Lakes Planning Council prepared a report on municipal land use regulations that were currently in force in the Keuka Lake Watershed called *Keuka Lake Local Law Assessment and Analysis* that can be viewed at: <http://www.gflrpc.org/uploads/3/1/9/1/31916115/keukalocalawassessanal.pdf>.

Following the completion of the LULA program, a working committee comprised of participants in the program and representatives appointed by the supervisors and mayors of the Towns and Villages in the watershed was set up to draft a *Keuka Lake Watershed Land Use Planning Guide*. The guide was published in March 2009 and provided a comprehensive study of the most prominent land use concerns that the watershed communities were facing at the time. The original guide can be viewed at: <http://www.gflrpc.org/uploads/3/1/9/1/31916115/keukalanduseguide.pdf>.

With administrative help from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County, The Keuka Lake Watershed LULA working committee continues to meet regularly at 3 PM on the fourth Monday of each month at the Yates County Municipal Building. Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly meetings. Anyone interested in attending can get information on the timing and schedule of the meetings from Brittany Griffin at (TEL: (315) 536-5123; EMAIL: bg393@cornell.edu). The committee cooperates with regional planning groups to obtain grants for: updating the planning guide; preparing and presenting an annual conference to facilitate networking between municipal governments and provide training to address current land use issues in the watershed; and for other projects related to

the watershed, including a recent program to identify the most important scenic views in the watershed. The most recent version of the Planning Guide is called the *Sustainable Keuka Lake Municipal Handbook*. It can be viewed on the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board website at: http://www.stcplanning.org/usr/Program_Areas/Water_Resources/KeukaLake/SustainableKeukaMunicipalHandbook.pdf.

Tom Close

Finger Lakes Museum Update

Since I had the opportunity to speak to the BPA in July, the Finger Lakes Museum & Aquarium has been quite busy finishing out its program season. At the end of July, the first week-long program occurred on the Museum site. A group of 6 program participants worked with Rob Hughes, owner of Big Beams Timber Frame, who led this first week-long workshop erecting a lean-to on the north side of the FLM&A's existing Creekside Center barn. Not only is the structure beautiful, it has created an additional outdoor programming space for the Museum to use for programming and future event rentals. The workshop was well received and educational for both the participants and the public. Two more workshops, of similar nature, are being developed for the 2018 season.

FLM&A Educators and outdoor guides carried out a series of paddling programs as scheduled and also led the first, full-day summer school program in conjunction with the Penn Yan School district. That has now morphed into a partnership with the school district to continue offering outdoor, afterschool activities this fall and, hopefully, into the winter and spring of next year.

On August 5th, the second annual Paddle Keuka 5k occurred despite the discovery of cyanobacteria on the Lake the day before along with an unseasonably, cool and windy mid-summer morning. Participants really braved the weather and rough waters that day but finished the race with smiles. It was definitely a race year to remember!



A core group of volunteers has been fervently working on developing our 16-acres of wetlands. A series of grant applications have been submitted to foundations to assist in the development of these lands. The group has been working through inventorying species, understanding proper boardwalk development, observing seasonal water levels, and much more. Work will begin again in the wetlands through the off-season when the water levels are at their lowest.

At the end of August and again on September 23rd at Abandon Brewery, the FLM&A invited the public to attend both of these events to get to know the organization and its constituents better. Staff, volunteers, and board members were present to discuss the accomplishments, programs, and next steps for the FLM&A. Stay tuned for more information in regards to each of the three items and for now, please visit our website at www.FingerLakesMuseum.org to stay up

to date on what is currently happening.

Natalie Payne
Executive Director

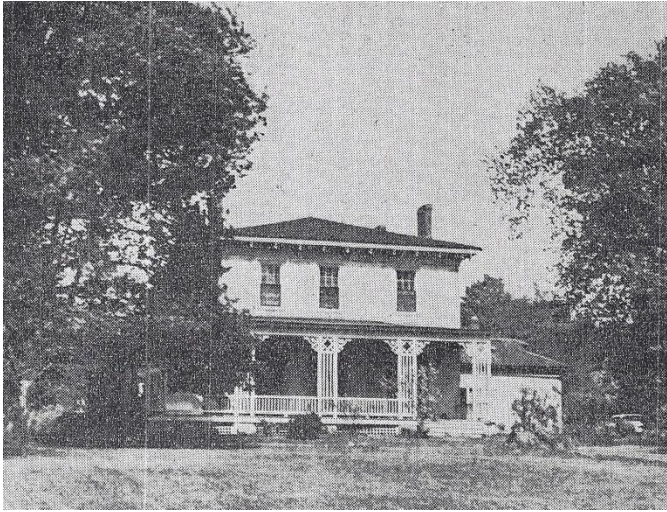
The Chestnuts

Written by John Wilder, who visited The Chestnuts. John is a member of the Jerusalem History Club and this article is printed with his permission.

Robert Lawson Rose, born in 1804, was the first of the children of Robert and Jane Rose to be born in New York State. His son, Robert Seldon Rose, born in 1827 in Ontario County, bought 362 acres of land from his uncle John Nicholas Rose, the builder of Esperanza. This land, bought in 1850, was part of the original Beddoe Tract located along the eastern shore of the western branch of Keuka Lake.



R. Seldon Rose, as he was called, named his home “The Chestnuts”, after the chestnut trees that then surrounded the house. Although it was considered the least impressive of the three Rose mansions built in Branchport, it still was a lovely stone house on the lakeshore. For some unknown reason the entire farm was put up for sale in 1871. It was advertised: “Valuable Property” offered for sale. Three hundred and sixty-two acres for \$30,000.00, or 100 acres for \$15,000.00. The stone house with three barns and the peach and apple orchards were listed. The farm must have been sold separately during this time for there is no later mention of it.



Dr. John Henry Rose inherited the house from his father and lived there with his sister and brother Edward until his death. In later life Catherine, also known as “Miss Kitty,” moved to Branchport to be nearer to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. During the second decade of the twentieth century, Dr. Rose allowed the Boy Scouts to hold an encampment on the lakeshore away from the house. At the time of his death the District Boy Scout Council was considering the location as a permanent camp. However, Camp Babcock-Hovey became the favored site choice.

It finally passed out of the family in 1937-38 to long-time friends of the Rose family, Mrs. Waldo Hutchins and her daughter Margaret. Margaret had considerable artistic talent; she filled the house with distinguished people, and was a world traveler. The house was the subject of many of her paintings. Upon her death in 1960 the house was sold and later in the 60’s it was demolished to build Keuka Lake State Park.

Historical information found in writings by: Jane Davis, Vern Marshall, Warren Hunting Smith and Frank L. Swan.

Note: The Jerusalem History Club is encouraging the placement of a sign to name the children's playground at Keuka Lake State Park. This is the site near the lake of the John Beddoe log home and

a bit more away from the lake of the Chestnuts. These were homes of family members buried at the Beddoe - Rose Cemetery located in the Park. Since the homes are gone, the only physical remains of them is in the cemetery. One reason the cemetery was placed on the National Registry was to ensure their memory.

Jerusalem History Club, 2017

Garrett Chapel Fundraisers

The Garrett Chapel was constructed by Paul and Evelyn Garrett who managed Garrett and Company, one of the largest wine producers in the US from 1867 to 1962. The Chapel was built in 1930, in memory of their only son, Charles, who died of tuberculosis in 1929. On his deathbed, Charles asked to be returned to the place he loved best – Bluff Point. Today, the Chapel serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of family and the significance of our region to the history of American wine making. The beautiful structure also serves as a gorgeous view of Keuka Lake in a serene and breathtaking setting. Garrett Memorial Chapel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It uses a number of novel building materials and techniques gathered from all over the world. The Chapel also houses an extensive collection of unique stained glass windows, including the last windows ever made by the distinguished artist Frederick Wilson. In Paul Garrett’s words, he and Evelyn chose to expand beyond a memorial, and instead “cast a sermon in stone”, and share much of their progressive views on religion and spirituality, building a seasonal chapel for the community. Since inception, the “Little Chapel on the Mount” has served as a seasonal chapel from July 4 to Labor Day each year. Sunday services in those months, are at 9 am. In addition, over 500 weddings have been conducted there. Garrett Chapel is under the ecclesiastic care of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, but in a

unique arrangement all maintenance and operations are funded through a separate non-profit organization called the Garrett Chapel Trust. The trust maintains a small endowment which covers approximately 50% of annual operating costs.

Contributions from donors make up the difference, and fund all building restoration. The church is in need of many repairs and the Trust has just completed work on a \$250,000 new slate roof. Repair of a broken stain glass window, due to vandalism, has been completed. Many other expensive repairs are on the horizon. The Bluff Point Association board voted unanimously to donate to this absolute gem of our Bluff in the amount of \$500. If others feel the need to help before this structure is past the point of recovery, please send to Garrett Chapel Trust c/o St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 179 Main Street, Penn Yan, NY. Their website, garrettchapel.org, also gives their long range planning and an opportunity to donate online.

Marcia English

Getting To Know the Hemlocks

*This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks,
Bearded with moss, and in garments green,
indistinct in the twilight...*

— Introduction to *Evangeline*, poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Although primeval forests are gone from western New York, we can still find Eastern Hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) in cool sheltered spots in our area. When European explorers first arrived in New England, one of many species new to them was the familiar Eastern Hemlock. At first, botanists thought these graceful trees were some type of pine, and in 1763 our Eastern Hemlock was officially named *Pinus canadensis* by

Linnaeus. Later it was considered to be a spruce, or maybe a fir. Finally, in 1855, hemlocks were recognized as a distinct group of trees, and were given the scientific name *Tsuga*. Hemlock trees can grow to 100 feet in height, with ages in excess of 500 years under good conditions. Because they tend to occur in shady ravines and on moist north-facing slopes, it can be a challenge to get a good look at an entire specimen. Look for hemlocks on the west side of Bluff Point, at shady spots along West Bluff Drive. They are more abundant along the aptly named Hemlock Road, north of Branchport. Rarely dominant here in the Finger Lakes, they become an important part of forests in the Adirondacks and Canada. Eastern Hemlock is the most widely distributed of the four species of hemlock in North America and the only one found in our area.



Eastern Hemlocks have delicate twigs of single needles spirally arranged around the branchlets. The half-inch needles are flattened, with two whitish stripes on the back, and twist slightly, giving the twigs a two-ranked or flattened appearance. Delicate oval seed cones hang from the tips of some twigs. The one-inch cones are pale green when young, but ripen to medium brown.

In the eastern U.S., evidence of hemlocks is found in Connecticut as fossil pollen from 9000 years ago. This suggests a cool wet period as the glaciers retreated. Drier periods dominated by birch and pine pollen followed, then another cycle in which oaks and hemlocks flourished. Continuing in this manner, using pollen in sediments, researchers have mapped climatic trends throughout post-glacial time. Plant and animal species are never static. As the glaciers retreated, hemlocks and many other species followed. They will continue to adjust, taking root wherever conditions are suitable for them. As our climate changes and growing zones shift north, warmer and drier conditions may increase the challenges for cool-adapted species like hemlock. One new challenge is already apparent, in the rapid expansion of the hemlock woolly adelgid threatening these trees today. This insect was introduced to North America in 1924 and has killed many trees in the southern Appalachians. Adelgids have been expanding into the Finger Lakes region and Hudson Valley. Infestations are capable of killing mature trees within four years. Foresters are rallying to find a way to stop the adelgid, and are trying biocontrols, including release of ladybeetles and other insects that prey on the adelgids. Mild winters have favored rapid expansion of the adelgids, a trait of concern as our climate transitions to warmer and drier. The best hope for saving our hemlocks may be hoping for more cold winters!

Read more about hemlocks:

The Gymnosperm Database: Eastern Hemlock page at:

http://www.conifers.org/pi/Tsuga_canadensis.php

US Forest Service Forest Health Protection: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid website at:

<https://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/>

Sally White

Sally White is a Southern Tier native who spent most of her career as a botanist/ecologist in the western U.S. She and her husband recently retired to a home near Keuka Park, where she's getting reacquainted with local ecology and history.

Agricultural Update on the Bluff

This year's grape crop is setting up to be a successful venture for grape growers. The rainy growing season, sharply contrasting last year's drought, has led to large canopies and vigorously growing vines. This healthy growth was also aided by the mild, consistent temperatures of the preceding winter. Spring temperatures remained average, allowing the vines to proceed without much stress. Summer months saw higher than average rainfall and the cool, wet weather could have been an issue if it hadn't warmed up or remained dry in September. The improved weather conditions couldn't have cooperated better for a dry harvest, contributing to grapes with the right sugar and acid balance for the varieties grown on the Bluff. The harvest season saw yields at or above average, so we look forward to tasting the results of this year's efforts.

Nicole Landers

Compiled from information provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension

Christmas Cheer – We Need Your Help!

The BPA will be helping with the bell ringing project this year to benefit CHRISTMAS FOR THE NEEDY. Our assignment is Dec 1 from 1-4 in any increments that you desire. To sign up please call Marcia English at 315-536-9436 to fill our own BPA chunk of time. If that day is not good for you, there are other time slots available. Contact Sue Falvey to find another date in December that works for you at 315-694-0596.

Cable Option to Consider

As some may know, Empire Cable (empireaccess.com) offers Internet and Cable TV to parts of Penn Yan, including Keuka College. Empire would be willing to expand their services if enough people called to express a desire for this service. Their telephone number is 844-488-5702. If you are interested, you can call Empire Cable to add your name to the list.

The BPA is simply making their members aware of this option and are not soliciting in any way.

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 2017

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address 1

Address 2

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Dec
Street: _____

Dec
Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Telephone: _____

Bluff Point Address: _____

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.

The Bluff Point Association

P. O. Box 72

Bluff Point, NY 14478

www.bluffpoint.org

Bluff Point Association

Art Adams, Director	678-319-0984
Tom Close, Ex Officio	315-536-2779
Wendy Disbrow, Director	315-536-3456
Marcia English, Director	315-536-9436
Fred Geyer, Director	315-536-7183
Martha Johnstone, Secretary	315-531-8889
Nicole Landers, Director	315-521-9857
Rodge Williams, Treasurer	585-813-3173
Lisa Saether, liaison FLLT	315-536-2620

Federal

29th 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: palmesanop@assembly.state.ny.us

607-776-9691 Bath Office

Senator Tom O'Mara

E-mail: 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 and choose 'Contact'

Keuka Park Association Ph. 315-536-0940

7pm 4th Wednesday of month at KP Fire House

Yates County Legislators

417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527

www.yatescounty.org Ph: 315-536-5150

legislature@yatescounty.org

Edward Bronson, Eldon Morrison, Douglas Paddock

Town of Jerusalem

3816 Italy Hill Rd., Branchport, NY 14418

www.jerusalem-ny.org Ph: 315-595-6668

Jim Balyszak, Watershed Inspector 315-536-5188

Pat Killen, Town Supervisor

Paul Anderson, Town Board

Max Parson, Town Board

Gary Dinehart, Town Board

Daryl Jones, Town Board

Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk

Vernon Brand, Town Assessor

Zac DeVoe, Town Code Enforcement

Rob Martin, Highway Superintendent

Community Meeting Dates

At Yates County Office Building

County Legislature: 1pm, 2nd Monday of month

Yatescounty.org (Legislature Link) 315-536-5150

County Planning Board: 7pm, 4th Thursday of the month

At Town of Jerusalem Offices 315-595-6668

Planning Board: 7pm, 1st Thursday of month

Zoning Bd. Appeals: 7pm, 2nd Thursday of month

Town Board: 7pm, 3rd Wednesday of month

Penn Yan Central School Board: 315-536-3371 7pm,
1st and 3rd Wed. of month at Penn Yan Academy