

The Bluff Point Association (BPA)

www.bluffpoint.org

MAY 2018

From the Editor

Spring has finally shown itself in the Finger Lakes. It's been a long winter, one that was great for studying the ice. Many of us followed the posts by Michele Cross on Facebook as she reported the ice conditions on Keuka Lake. We are pleased to have a detailed account of her findings included in this newsletter. Whether you have been here all winter, hibernating (like I was), or have spent your winter in warmer climes, our goal is to keep you informed on the activities taking place on and surrounding the Bluff. As a result, we share with you an account of a recent zoning board meeting and have asked Town Supervisor, Pat Killen, for an address on the proposed sewer project. Our local history buffs keep us interested in people and places that came before, perhaps giving us inspiration for the future. Speaking of the future, summer will be here sooner than we expect and we're reminded of the importance of safety in our activities as family and friends join us in outdoor adventures. We hope to see many of you at our annual meeting at Keuka College, being held on July 14 this year. Enjoy the spring and see you in July!

Nicole Landers, Editor

Adopt-A Highway

The 54A Road Clean-up will take place on Monday, May 14. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Overlook at 9:00 AM for a group photo before embarking on removing litter from their section of the roadside. It is suggested to bring work gloves, wear long sleeves and pants and appropriate footwear. High visibility vests or jackets are also

recommended. Garbage bags, plastic gloves and garbage-poker sticks will be provided.

Bring a friend and join us for this bi-annual community project. Looking ahead, the fall cleanup will take place on the second Monday of September.

If you have questions please email Annette Toaspern at KAToaspern@hotmail.com.

Zoning Board Update

I recently attended a Jerusalem Zoning Board Meeting at the request of a property owner who was not able to attend the meeting. The meeting agenda included the review of an application for an area variance for new construction on a steep slope lakefront property. Such a review requires the applicant to show that the benefit to the applicant outweighs any burden to health, safety and welfare that may be suffered by the community. The Zoning Board is required to take five factors into consideration in making its determination: (1) whether an undesirable change will be produced in the character of the neighborhood, or a detriment to nearby properties will be created by the granting of the area variance; (2) whether the benefit sought by the applicant can be achieved by some method which will be feasible for the applicant to pursue but would not require a variance; (3) whether the requested area variance is substantial; (4) whether the proposed variance will have an adverse effect or impact on the physical or environmental conditions in the neighborhood or district; and (5) whether an alleged difficulty is self-created. The Zoning Board does not have to find in favor

of the applicants on all of the factors, they just have to take each one into account.

The discussion regarding factor (4) was particularly interesting. The attorney for the applicants noted that the Town's Comprehensive Plan states that development on steep slopes can have an adverse effect on environmental conditions and that the applicant had not provided any evidence as to how these potential adverse impacts would be mitigated. The Board responded to the effect that that under the Town's Steep Slopes regulations, applicants will eventually have to provide the Planning Board with a mitigation plan approved by Yates County Soil and Water before obtaining a building permit. It was therefore concluded that the answer to factor (4) was that there will be no adverse environmental impact. The Board also noted that because of the substantial engineering expense of preparing a mitigation plan, it is standard practice that applicants are not required to present an approved mitigation plan to the Board prior to review of a variance request.

It was abundantly clear to me that the Zoning Board's job is not an easy one and that we all should appreciate their hard work on our behalf. The request for variance was granted on a split vote.

Tom Close

Sewer Proposal Update

Dear Bluff Point Association Members,

I am writing to update BPA members on our recent sewer study. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your work and support of matters relating to our community, and our shared concerns for land and water quality. One of the reasons

the Town undertook the sewer study was our interest in helping protect and preserve the water quality of Keuka Lake.

The Town of Jerusalem has a link on their website to a Survey Monkey questionnaire about existing septic systems: www.jerusalem-ny.org/water.htm#sewer-system-map-survey The survey's intent is to gauge interest amongst residents in the Town providing more municipal sewer coverage. At this point we are still in the information-gathering stage. I would like to strongly encourage each of you to take time to participate in our short survey that takes about 3 minutes to complete and has space for comment at the end. Please ask friends or neighbors in the potential service areas to complete the survey. The relevant areas include Branchport Hamlet, Crescent Beach, West Bluff Drive, East Bluff Drive (beyond the existing system), Route 54A between Branchport and Penn Yan, Eastman Ave, Ritchey Blvd, and Old Pines (North of 54A).

People have had questions about how this might work, if we decided to go forward, so I will try to address those now. If we decide there is sufficient need or interest, over a series of several months, there would be public meetings, informational sessions, votes at Town Board meetings on establishing a district, approving bonding (financing) etc.

How would the installation work and what would be the cost? Should the Project proceed, the Town (Sewer District) would supply and install a grinder pump on each property and connect it to the existing sewer line running to each property's septic system. Each septic system (septic tank and one dry well) would also be de-commissioned at that time by the Town.

The grinder pumps and appurtenances would be owned and maintained by the Town.

The property owner's only connection-related expense would be supply of an electric connection (cable) to the outside of the building where the Town would install a Town-owned grinder pump control/alarm box which would be mounted on the outside of the building served by the grinder pump. The property owner would provide the electric for the grinder pump operation.

Once the installation is complete and the system is operational all of the property owner's future costs would be included in the \$110 - \$125 / month (range) estimated monthly cost. A large portion of the monthly cost would be debt (bond) payments which would remain relatively constant. People have asked about annual cost increases. If we look at the example of KPSW Sewer District 2, from project authorization in 1998, until 2018 the annual increase in rate since installation has been an average of 1.8%.

I hope this letter helps get more information out, and helps us gather more feedback from our residents about possible municipal sewer coverage. I think we share a concern for protecting Keuka Lake.

Sincerely,

Patrick Killen, Town of Jerusalem
Supervisor

Jerusalem History Club Events

The Jerusalem History Club meets regularly to share information and explore topics of interest to town residents. A primary goal of the JHC is to increase knowledge of the history of Jerusalem and particularly the

Bluff Point area. We welcome the assistance of residents who have stories or old photographs of their property. Our research uses deeds, abstracts, diaries, newspapers, old maps and images including sketches, paintings, and photos. We are currently looking at individual locations, steamboat stops along the lake, and other sites. We have used historic Keuka Lake Association directories to learn of owners' and houses' names. We would like to learn more about farms on the Bluff and their histories as they linked the land and the lake to take produce to market. For example, the Lewis family of Cinconia—West Bluff—has shared photos from their collection. Anyone who has images, old post cards, or similar items, is asked to contact Annette Toaspern at (315) 536-9887 or katoaspern@hotmail.com, subject line "Bluff history."

The Jerusalem History Club will present three summer programs for the public in the summer of 2018.

Tuesday, June 19 at 3 p.m. at the Branchport Library: "Charles Williamson." In 1792, Charles Williamson arrived here from Scotland to manage the former Phelps and Gorham Purchase lands. As the land agent for Sir William Pulteney, Williamson cleared the wilderness, built roads, established communities, a postal system, a newspaper, in a period of ten years. The infrastructure he put into place is still evident. Part of his compensation was the "southern half of Bluff Point" where he built White Hart Farm, the first house at the tip of the Bluff.

Tuesday, July 24 at 3 p.m. at the Branchport Library: "Shoreline Tour of Jerusalem." We will start at Indian Pines and go along the shore to tell the stories of the properties on West Lake Road/East

Bluff and West Bluff Drives, the “top of the lake” and along the west side south of Branchport to the Steuben County line. This will be a “steamboat tour and more” with images old and new, telling the stories of how people have lived along Keuka’s shores for more than 200 years. Note: This program is free but seating is limited, so come early!

Tuesday, August 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Hunt Country Vineyard. Rich MacAlpine will present “The Penn Yan, Keuka Park and Branchport Trolley.” This program is a fund raiser for the Yates County History Center; a \$5 donation is requested. The Trolley is a popular subject, having displays of its history at the Jerusalem Town Hall, the Branchport Library, and a replica of a trolley at Hunt Country. There will be an exhibit of trolley memorabilia at the program. Wine will be available for purchase by the glass and Jerusalem History Club will provide snacks.

Jerusalem History Club programs will be recorded and DVDs will be available. DVDs of past programs and many other local history topics can be found at the Branchport Library. We thank Jerry Lange for recording, preparing, and sharing these DVDs for the public.

Martha Johnstone

Chasing Ice

I’m often asked how I became interested in ice, snow and being outside in sub-zero temperatures. Those who know me think that my love affair with the cold and our cryosphere--the frozen parts of our planet--began with my time in Antarctica in 2009 when I was selected to be part of a small research team that had developed an underwater robot designed to complete science missions under the ice and to go beyond scuba depth diving limits of

approximately 100 feet.

While my time “on the ice” left me with a passion and a deep love for Antarctica, it was my time spent with teachers and scientists from around the country at NASA’s History of Winter Project held in Lake Placid in 2014. This week-long opportunity to work side-by-side with glaciology and cryospheric experts, studying ice, snow and gathering data, created an excitement and curiosity that ultimately led to my love affair with all things frozen.

Believe it or not, ice and snow tell a story...a history of winter, if you will. In terms of Keuka Lake, I decided to begin collecting data on ice thickness beginning back in February 2015. The ice on the West Branch was spectacular that season, and I was more than happy to spend hours out there. Many individuals allowed me access from their property on both branches that season, and not only did I collect data on thickness at a variety of locations, but I also pulled up cross sections of ice at various locations to likewise use in a class that I’d developed called Life and Science at the Poles.

When you look at a cross section from top to bottom, you will oftentimes see layers, and each layer tells us something about the weather conditions when that particular layer was formed. Basically, a record of weather conditions is “frozen” into the ice--freeze events and the speed at which the ice froze, snow events, the ice structure. You can then use archived weather data to put dates, temperatures, precipitation and type, etc. to those events. Voilá! The history of winter! Ice thin sections are another fun way to look at ice and to glean additional information, but that’s a conversation for another day.

Below is the ice data from Indian Pines for this past winter. The initial freeze was fantastic as it formed black ice. That's the best this area has to offer. It was so clear that you could actually see the bottom of the lake! Then the snows came on Saturday, January 13th and created a layer of snow ice on top. As per people's reports, there was a single freeze event the night of Sat, Jan 13 through early morning Sun, Jan 14 from Camp Cory down to the Bluff; although, the ice never did extend beyond that point. Overall, the ice "grew" accordingly with our temperatures. Ice was solid, safe and structurally sound right up until the end of February and the beginning of March. As usual, we lost access from the shoreline, but if someone were able to get beyond the shoreline break up, he/she would've still found structurally sound ice.

And, there you have it--Chasing Ice 2018! Thank you for allowing me to share this with you on the 'I ♥ Keuka Lake' Facebook site throughout the winter. I've loved your questions and observations and am really quite thrilled that what started as an interest has become educational outreach to our wonderful community. See you next season!



Keuka Lake Feb 2018

Table 1: Ice Data for Keuka Lake, East Branch; out of Indian Pines

Date (2018)	Avg. Thickness*	Avg. Thickness**
Jan 5 (-25°F)	9.25"	-
Jan 15	11.9"	-
Jan 21	11"	4.6"
Jan 27	11.9"	-
Feb 3	12.6"	7"
Feb 10	10.8"	7.4"
Feb 20 (68°F)	10.5"	-

*Up to approx. 1.3 miles south

**Approx. 1.3 miles - 2 miles south

Michele Rose Cross

Yates County's Early Naturalists

The glacial hills and lakes of the Yates County area enticed the curiosity of men who made significant contributions to science in the 18th and 19th centuries. Their efforts broadened our understanding in fields of botany, ornithology, geology, paleontology, mathematics, astronomy, archaeology. Although some were well trained at colleges and universities, especially in medicine or theology, often they were self-taught. The fields of botany and medicine were notably well aligned in those times.

The earliest physician-botanist here in Yates County was probably Henry Parker Sartwell, born in 1792 in Massachusetts. He was practicing medicine in Utica by 1811 but officially received his M.D. degree in 1841, nine years after he settled in Penn Yan in 1832. By 1840, he was President of the Penn Yan Society of Literature and Science.



*Henry Parker
Sartwell, 1792-1867
(Wisconsin
Historical Society)*

“Dr. Sartwell was considered a well read and well informed physician of the “old school.” He was said to be the homeliest man in town and it was [our] opinion he was entitled to that distinction.” [*Some Early Reminiscences, Article 13; ca 1919, Sheppard’s scrapbook, Vol. F*]

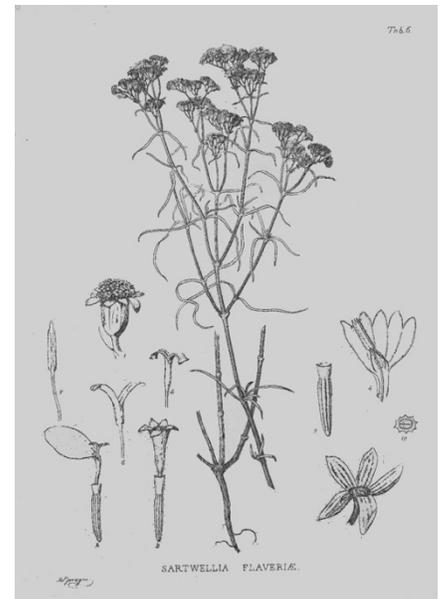
Sartwell’s *Catalogue of plants growing without cultivation in the vicinity of Seneca and Crooked lakes, in western New York* was published in 1845 as part of the 58th annual report of the Regents of the University of New York; it documented 947 species of native and naturalized plants. In 1864 he sold his extensive botanical collections to Hamilton College. Thereafter, he focused his botanical attentions almost exclusively on the genus *Carex*, superficially grass-like plants often occurring in wetlands, which he expected “to dabble in as long as I live.”

Sartwell’s plant collections were donated from Hamilton College to the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in 1983, where they remain. More than 900 of them are included in the NYBG’s online records. Sartwell was a thorough collector, making sure that even a specimen of Yates County corn (*Zea mays*) was preserved for posterity! (Along with a *Cannabis* (marijuana) plant from somewhere in Pennsylvania.)

Sartwell’s contributions to botany were significant enough that renowned American botanist Asa Gray named not only a species but an entire genus of plants after him.

Glowwort, genus *Sartwellia*, is a plant related to marigolds and was named by Asa Gray in 1852; it occurs in New Mexico and Texas, as well as Mexico. Gray wrote: “I take pleasure in dedicating the genus to Dr. Henry P. Sartwell, of Penn Yan, New York, one of my earliest and most valued botanical correspondents, a zealous student and collector of the plants of Western New York.”

Two species of his favorite sedges also honor Sartwell: *Carex sartwellii* or Sartwell’s sedge, is considered globally secure, but ranked as threatened in New York State. Yosemite sedge, *Carex sartwelliana*, occurs only in California and is considered vulnerable.

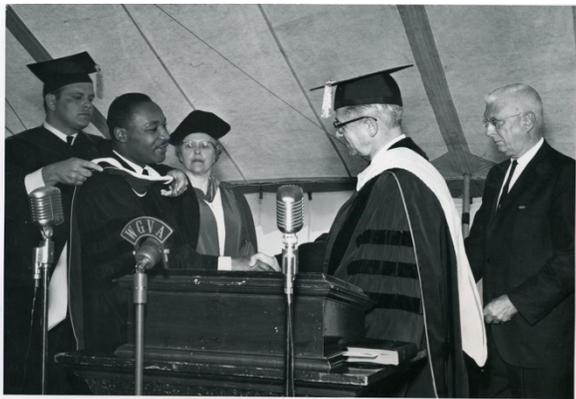


Sartwell was not the only resident of Yates County with a love of botany to have left his mark on science. In the 1850s, Sartwell acquired a protégé, Samuel Hart Wright, more than 30 years his junior. Wright’s contributions and accomplishments will be explored in a future article of this newsletter. In the meantime, let us celebrate the legacy of this brilliant and prolific Yates County.

Sally White

Keuka College Honors a King

During the tumultuous 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man to listen to, to gain insight from and take action with. On June 16, 1963, Keuka College invited the iconic leader to give the baccalaureate address on its campus. At that time, students would have been filled with hope for a successful future after having just completed their studies at the college, listened to his words with serious reflection. On February 20, 2018, current students and members of the community gathered in Norton Chapel to listen to the words with a different kind of reflection, knowing that Dr. King's future had not been so bright. The original reel-to-reel recording of the speech was recently returned to the college by a former employee and digitally transferred for preservation and sharing. Norton Chapel's walls were filled with Dr. King's voice as the words began "Class of this great institution of learning, and ladies and gentlemen. I need not pause to say how very delighted I am to have the privilege and opportunity of being here today and being on the campus of Keuka College." The great orator went on to address the violence that had plagued the Civil Rights movement, yet always returning to the hope that justice will prevail.



Dr. King was given an honorary Doctor of Letters degree that June day. In 1970, King's widow, Coretta Scott King, visited Keuka College, receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Article and photo were adapted from www.keukacollege.edu. The full speech and listening guide can be found at: <https://www.keuka.edu/1963-baccalaureate-address-rev-dr-martin-luther-king-jr>

Finger Lakes Museum Update

The Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium has not been idle this winter, preparing for another season of interactive and fun events. The museum partnered with Hunt Country Vineyards, who gave 5% of wine sales for the month of April to the FLM & A. Another new partnership was made with L.L. Bean that will hold clinics at Keuka Lake State Park -- check the website for dates. This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the museum's inception and it is celebrating by highlighting one Finger Lake a month -- June will be Keuka Lake. Watch out for information on social media and their website (below).

Selection of Upcoming Events

May 19 10:00 – Spring Open House
June 2 9:30 – Explore Color Around You
June 9 10:00 – Free Community Paddle
June 16 9:30 – Photography Class
August 4 – 3rd annual Paddle Keuka 5k
October 6 – Finger Lakes Gear Fest

For a complete list and to register visit:

<https://www.fingerlakesmuseum.org/>



Sky Lanterns and the Law

Sky lanterns, for sale in many local shops, are legal to use but only if tethered. If released, these devices eventually land in agricultural fields, forests, or waterways, causing potential fire risks, or hazards for livestock and wildlife. Everyone benefits when sky lanterns are used in the correct way. For more information visit <http://nyassembly.gov/leg/> and search for Bill A5240 during the 2015-16 session.

2018 Property Revaluation

Town of Jerusalem home owners have received their updated Assessment letters by now. We received some requests on what the BPA can do to help them understand the new rates. Assessor, Vernon Brand, gave a detailed description of the 2018 Revaluation Process at the BPA Annual Meeting in July 2017. The Town of Jerusalem website provides detailed information: www.jerusalem-ny.org/assessor.htm

Meet the New Manager of Keuka Lake State Park

Steve Garlick joined New York State Parks upon graduating from Romulus Schools in 1981. He gained experience in various aspects of park operations and management at Sampson State Park, Seneca Lake State Park and currently, Keuka Lake State Park. Steve began his position as Park Manager at Keuka in March, 2017 after serving as Park Manager at Seneca. Steve says he was “looking for a new challenge” and jumped at the chance to make that happen at Keuka. Since taking the leadership role here, Steve has put plans into place to complete electric services of two loops within the campground, build two rustic sleeping cabins and oil and stone Esperanza Loop and the road between the office and West

Bluff Drive. He chose these projects based on comments from patrons as well as from his staff, which he describes as a phenomenal group of dedicated people. Steve is working with Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Emily Staychock to continue the Watercraft Steward Program, coordinating with her on staffing the boat launches with Stewards for the 28 fishing tournaments scheduled for this season. He’s also worked with NYS Parks Regional Environmental Team to survey the park for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The infestation was found to be worse than first thought, so Steve has signed on to participate in a study run by Cornell University’s Mark Whitmore to release biological control agents as well as utilize conventional sprays to protect the park’s iconic hemlocks. Another ongoing project is in collaboration with Annette Toaspern of the Jerusalem History Club to have a sign installed explaining the history of The Chestnuts at the historic site. Steve reiterated that he welcomes questions and suggestions from patrons and his new neighbors, so please join us in welcoming Steve to our beautiful Keuka Lake!

Hunt for the Chestnut

Local naturalist, Sally White, would like information on the past--or present--occurrence of American chestnuts in Yates County. Most American chestnuts were killed by blight in the early 20th century, but they undoubtedly formed some part of early forests in western New York, including our area. In some cases, ancient stumps may also remain. If you know of surviving chestnuts (that don't seem to have been planted in recent decades), please contact Sally by email at sallyl.white11@gmail.com. Information collected may assist in efforts to restore chestnuts in New York.

Christmas Cheer Remembered

BPA board members, Marcia English and Tom Close, participated in the bell ringing project to benefit the Yates Christmas Program last December. Many other members of our community did the same. Organizer, Suzanne Falvey, sent a note of thanks informing us that the combined effort raised \$11,600 for the Yates Christmas Program in 2017. Thanks to all who made this happen!

SAVE THE DATE
BPA Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 14, 2018
8:30 – 11:00
Keuka College

Renew Your Membership – Don't Miss Out!

Your annual payment of \$15 is essential in helping our organization get important and interesting information to our membership and funds the annual meeting (July 14 at Keuka College). Because of the timely nature of some of the issues we cover, the board has been reluctant to cease mailing newsletters to past members who have not yet renewed their membership. As the cost of printing and mailing rise, we have decided to make this the **last "free" newsletter to unpaid members**. If you'd like to continue receiving the BPA newsletter and are not current with your membership, please fill out the half sheet below and mail it with your payment. We appreciate your support as we continue to do our best to keep you informed and connected.

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 Dec
Street: _____

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov 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	585-813-3173
Marcia English, Director	315-536-9436
Fred Geyer, Director	315-536-7183
Martha Johnstone, Secretary	585-748-6078
Nicole Landers, Director	315-521-9857
Rodge Williams, Treasurer	315-536-3456
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: palmesano@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

Douglas Paddock (chair), Edward Bronson,
Eldon Morrison

Town of Jerusalem

3816 Italy Hill Rd., Branchport, NY 14418

jerusalem-ny.org

Ph: 315-595-6668

Jim Balyszak, Watershed Inspector 315-536-5188

Pat Killen, Town Supervisor

Paul Anderson, Town Board

Jamie Sisson, Town Board

Raymond Stewart, 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

Yates County Office Building

County Legislature: 1pm, 2nd Monday of month

yatescounty.org 315-536-5150

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

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