



Town of Torrey

PO Box 280

56 Geneva St

Dresden, NY 14441

Phone: 315-536-6376

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Website: townoftorrey.org

Newsletter

September 1- December 31, 2023

The Torrey Town Board is sending this newsletter to bring residents up to date on some of the issues the town has considered and/or is working on since the last newsletter (May 1 - August 31).

Town Officials -

Peter Martini	(Supervisor)	martinivms@gmail.com
315.536.9781	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2025	
Colby Petersen	(Deputy Supervisor)	colby@ycsoilwater.com
315.536.1014	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2025	
Grant Downs	(Councilman)	gjdowns1946@gmail.com
315.531.8441	Term: January 1,2022 - December 31,2025	
Bruce Henderson	(Councilman)	blhenderson83@gmail.com
315.521.7108	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2027	
Kathy McGrath	(Councilwoman)	kmcgrath2006@gmail.com
585.339.8300	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2027	
Betty Daggett	(Town Clerk)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.6376	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2025	
Tim Chambers	(Hwy Supt.)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.729.2706	Term: January 1,2024 - December 31,2025	
James Smith	(Town Justice)	townclerk@townoftorrey.com
315.536.5655	Term: January 1, 2024 - December 31,2025	
Dwight James	(Code Enforcement Officer)	torreycodes@gmail.com
315.536.6376 (cell 315.730.3291)		
Stephanie Holz	(Town Assessor)	assessor@townofbenton.us
315.536.7551		

A Note from Town Supervisor Peter Martini

As the year 2023 has come to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the activities and issues the Town of Torrey experienced this past year. First, in February the Town of Torrey entered into a contract for the construction of Water District 1 (essentially from Fox Run Winery to Seneca Shore Winery along the lake). Unfortunately, the contractor experienced some challenges that delayed progress. At this point after consultation with our engineer, **CPL**, and the contractor, **Nardozzi Construction**, we believe they have been resolved and look forward to the project's completion by May of 2024.



Work on "Meter Pit Vault" across from Fox Run Winery in December of 2023

On May 29th, the Town of Torrey held its 101st Memorial Day Observance which was organized and coordinated by our Town Clerk, Betty Daggett. It was a fitting tribute to those who gave so much so that we can enjoy all that we have.

In August, after many years of hard work by our Code Enforcement Officer, Dwight James, the Torrey Station issue was successfully resolved. This included the environmental cleanup, demolition of a building, and getting the property back on the County tax rolls starting in 2024.

The Town Planning Board under the leadership of its chairman, George Dowse, developed and presented to the Town Board a “Short Term Rental” Policy for adoption. This policy seeks to balance the rights of individual property owners with the needs of the permanent residents of the town.

The Town of Torrey Highway Department under Superintendent Tim Chambers purchased with board approval a new mower to replace an aged mower which was requiring constant repair. Also, the Highway Department used CHIPS funding from the State to pave, oil and stone, and replace culverts on some of our town roads.

The Town Board had two committees that worked on a Personnel Policies & Work Rules and a Hazardous Mitigation Plan (in conjunction with Yates County Office of Emergency Services) which the Town Board adopted.

Also, the Town Board worked diligently on developing the Town Budget for 2024. This proved to be extremely challenging given the extraordinary rising cost of materials, services, and insurances the Town Board confronted. Let me assure you, the Town Board did its best to keep the tax rate as low as possible as well as provide the necessary services you the taxpayers require.

In an effort to mitigate the raise in taxes on our seniors, the Town Board passed a local law amending the Senior Citizens Tax Exemption from Real Property Tax Exemptions, increasing limits to \$28,399.99.

Finally, let me encourage you to attend the monthly Town Board meeting which is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Town Building on Geneva Street. You will not only have the opportunity to see the issues facing the Town of Torrey discussed, but you will also have the opportunity to bring forward your concerns and comments on town issues.

From the Desk of Town Board:

- The Town Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Town Building at 56 Geneva Street, Dresden, NY.

- The Town Board accepted the Stork Insurance Agency insurance proposal from October 1,2023 to October 1,2024 with a premium of \$22,901.51. This compares to the previous year's premium of \$19,222.81
- The Town Budget was adopted at the November 1st public meeting as follows:

Adopted the Town Budget for 2024

Summary of Torrey Town Budget

Fund	Appropriations & Provisions	Less Est Rev	Less Unexpended Balance	Amount Raised by Taxes
Gen A	416,649.00	65,359.00	100,000.00	251,290.00
Gen B	36,155.00	15,083.00	0.00	21,072.00
HWY DA Townwide	319,984.00	43,531.00	100,000.00	176,453.00
HWY DB Outside Village	265,001.00	105,244.00	0.00	159,757.00
Subtotal	1,037,789.00	229,217.00	200,000.00	608,572.00
Fire Cnt	106,775.00	0.00	0.00	106,775.00
Totals \$ (2024)	1,144,564.00	229,217.00	200,000.00	715,347.00
Totals \$ (2023)	1,133,707.00	402,741.00	42,391.00	688,575.00
Totals \$ (2022)	1,183,209.00	404,916.00	102,791.00	675,502.00
Totals \$ (2021)	992,453.00	259,508.00	75,284.00	657,661.00

Town of Torrey Tax Rate per 1000/Unit

Year	Town Tax Rate Outside Village	Town Tax Rate Within Village	Torrey Fire District
2024	3.127547	2.143089	.532713
2023	3.0077324	2.212658	.531278
2022	3.009402	2.506435	.535331
2021	3.000419	2.239000	.517019

- Councilman Larry Martin did not seek reelection and retired from the Town Board effective December 31, 2023. The Town Board thanks him for his eight years of service to the Town of Torrey and wishes him well. Kathy McGrath was elected on November 7, 2023 to fill his position.
- Set February 13, 2024 for a public hearing on the **2025 Tax Cap Local Law**
- Will review the Planning Board's draft proposal of a **Short Term Rental Law** on February 13, 2024, then set the date for a public hearing (likely March 12, 2024).
- Received from the Village of Dresden Fire Department a voucher (**\$106,775**) for Fire Protection in 2024.
- The Board adopted a revised Personnel Policy after working with the Town Highway Department as well as reviewing numerous county wide municipalities policy.
- Reappointed Robert Miller to the Planning Board to 2027
- Reappointed Floyd Hoover to the Planning Board to 2028
- Reappointed Robert Constantine to the Zoning Board of Appeal to 2028
- Reappointed Betty Daggett as Torrey Register of Vital Statistics

From the Desk of Town Clerk (Betty Daggett):

- The Town Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am - 4:00pm. The office phone number is 315-536- 6376.
- Tax Collection is in full stride, the new collection system introduced by the county in 2018 was plagued with initial glitches. Those problems have been resolved, and the 2024 tax collection is running smoothly.

On the tax bills is the option to pay Town & County Taxes online at <https://www.yatescounty.org/519>. However, standard processing fees will be applied , which can be substantial!

- Notary Public - No Fee
- Fee collection such as building permits, fines & fees issued by Code Office, Watershed Inspection for property sales
- Registrar of Birth / Death Certificates Vital copies - \$10.00 fee.
- Handicap Parking Permits
- Hunting/Fishing Licenses are on sale during normal business hours. Fishing licenses are available any business day, while hunting licenses are available starting August 1st
- Marriage License Requirements: Bride/Groom/Spouse must be present to obtain a license. The license is good for 60 days. There is a \$30 fee. Evening or Saturday appointments are available.
- Dog Licenses: State Law requires all puppies to be licensed at 4 months. At time of licensing, a rabies certificate and neuter/spay certificate must be presented. Licensing Fees: Unspayed/Unneutered \$18 and Spayed/Neutered \$10.

(It is NYS Ag & Market law- **ALL dogs** harbored in the Town of Torrey must be licensed yearly at the Town Clerk office.)

- There is an app, **NIXLE**, to be alerted to infrastructure issues specific to Yates County posted by the Sheriff's Department. Those interested should go to **NIXLE.COM** with your zip code to review current alerts and also sign up to have alerts sent directly to you.
- The Town of Torrey website can be accessed in one of two ways
townoftorrey.org
townoftorrey.com
- Appropriate Public Notices for the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board are placed in the newspaper, on the town website, and at various sites within the Village of Dresden

From the Desk of Town Highway Superintendent (Tim Chambers):

- Off hours emergency callout number: 315-729-2706

- Consolidated Local and Highway Improvement Program (**CHIPs**) monies of \$174,371.76 was submitted to the State for reimbursement for the six (6) Town highway projects completed this year.
- Guide rails were installed on Anthony Beach Road completing the project of culvert replacement
- Hazard Road (1.1 miles) and Norris Road (1.1 miles) were shimmed then had two (2) coats of oil and stone. This process should last for 10 years.
- Installed a culvert on Swarthout Road for driveway to a new house being built.
- A Land Pro mower to use in the town cemeteries was purchased for \$4700.
- Eight (8) new tires were purchased for Truck #2 at \$70/tire less than what was originally quoted resulting in a savings to the Town. Doug mounted the tires, which again was a savings for the Town
- City Hill Construction starting in 2024 will no longer commercially sell ice control sand from its pit. The Highway Department with Town Board approval will purchase (at \$7.05 a ton) and store as much sand as possible at the Town Barn on Rte. 14. City Hill had much more (ten years worth) than they expected, but it does not go bad and will save the town a significant amount of money over that time.
- The Town Highway Department obtained from the railroad two (2) truck loads of table salt to be mixed with our road salt for use during the Winter season
- Completed the replacement of the last culvert on Serenity Road. This allows the water line project to have access on the eastside of the railroad tracks.
- Received confirmation on the availability of a new septic tank and grease trap at the Town Building complex and are proceeding with installation.
- Sent emails to 15 consultants requesting quotes for an engineering services to formulate a grant for culvert on Perry Point Road (2) and Long Point Road. The Torrey Town Board subsequently approved a consulting contract with Hunt Engineers for this work.
- A **safety** precaution- as we are approaching the time of year when snow plowing is possible, trash cans should **not** be placed on Town Roads, but rather on the right-of-way.
- *Reminder according to NYS law:*
 - + placing trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or refuse on Highways and in the highway right of way is prohibited
 - + the town superintendent of highways shall sue for and recover a penalty not to exceed \$100 from any person

depositing ashes, snow, ice, stones, sticks, etc. upon a highway or on grass or loose stones adjoining a town road.

From the Desk of Town Code Enforcement Officer (*Dwight James*):

- Call the Town Office at 315-536-6376 (cell 315-730-3291) or email at torreycodes@gmail.com to inquire about permits. Office hours are 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday at the Town Building.
- Residents are reminded *When in doubt ask!* Building permits are required for any electrical, plumbing, or structural work undertaken whether alteration, addition, or new construction.
- Reminder all Short Term Rentals (**STR**) must be registered with the Town
The Torrey Town Board adopted the following fee schedule for Short Term Rental (**STR**) permits
 - Initial Fee \$500.00 for 2 years
 - Renewal Fee \$250.00 for 2 years
- A software proposal from Williamson for a Building and Code Enforcement Program (\$6000.00) was accepted with annual support at a cost of \$1450.00.
- The Town of Torrey Code Enforcement 2023 Annual Report is as follows:
 - Total Permits issued- 114
 - New Homes - 5 (with 4 more pending)
 - Additions -
 - Commercial buildings -
 - Commercial additions -
 - Commercial renovations -
 - Short Term Rental - 36
 - Other - 32
 - Permit Fees Collected - \$13790.90
 - Building Progress Inspection- 92
 - Continuing Education Hours -
 - C of O/C of C issued - 23
 - Fire Inspection - 5
 - New 911 (fire numbers) issued-
 - Site Visits or Review for Applications - 26
 - Special Use Applications - 7
 - Violations issued - 3

From the Desk of Town Planning Board (George Dowse):

- Meets the third (3rd) Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Town Building. Although because of the Federal holidays in January and February, the meetings for those months will be January 22nd and February 26th.
- Approved the Red Tail Ridge Winery project which is now moving forward
- Approved a number of steep slope tram systems on Log Cabin Road
- Worked with Greenidge on the requirements for a sound study as part of Greenidge's Town permit. The study was conducted on Friday, December 8. The final report will be sent to the Planning Board in January 2024.
- Considering the impact of the new New York State Cannabis Law as the Town of Torrey did **not** opt out of participating in the sale and dispensing of Cannabis. New York State has yet to finalize the rules and procedures.
- Completed changes to the Short Term Rental Law as there has been a noticeable increase in their number in the Town. Several model laws e.g. the Canadice's Short Term Rental (**STR**), were reviewed. The Planning Board's suggested **STR** was sent to the Town Attorney for review.

From the Desk of Town Judge (Hon. George Thompson)

- Court is held each Tuesday at 2:00pm on the West side of the Town Building. The phone number is 315.536.5655
- Criminal court is held the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm
- Yearly audit of Town of Torrey Court's accounts was done on December 4th for records from September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023 by Town Supervisor Peter Martini and Town Board Councilman Grant Downs. It was determined the process for Justice Court Records is being followed, all required documentation is in place, and steps are verified with hardcopy receipts.
- The Torrey Town Court applied and was awarded a Justice Court Assistance Program (**JCAP**) grant in the 2022-2023 cycle for a security system and emergency generator.
- Judge Thompson did not seek reelection in November. James Smith did run for the position of Town Judge and will assume the office in January of 2024.

From the Desk of Town Assessor (Stephanie Holtz)

- The Office of the Assessor for the Town of Torrey will be located in the Town Building on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- The last revaluation for the Town of Torrey was done in 2019. New York State requires a revaluation to be done every 4 to 5 years. This work started in the Spring of 2023 and the preliminary work is expected to be done by the beginning of January. Impact statements will be mailed to residents on or before March 1, 2024. The Tentative Assessment Roll will be filed May 1, 2024.

From the Desk of Town Watershed Inspector (Yates Cty Soil & Water)

The Town's inspectors can be contacted at the Yates County Soil and Water Conservation Department 315- 536-5188.

The Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District provides the watershed inspection services for the Town of Torrey and Village of Dresden. Educating homeowners on the function of their wastewater treatment systems has proven to be a tremendous benefit.

In November of 2014, the Town of Torrey passed a local Wastewater Law effective January 1, 2015. Under the new law, any onsite wastewater treatment system within 200' of Seneca Lake or a DEC classified stream is required to be inspected every 5 years. The cost of the inspection is borne by the Town of Torrey (unless this is a property transfer). However any pumping of the septic or repair is a cost to the homeowner. We are now in year 9 of these inspections.

The Watershed Inspection Reports for the Town of Torrey over the last three years (the program is has a 5 year cycle) are:

2021- 81 inspections to date

44 Zone 1

13 Real Property Transfer

9 Repairs

3 Tank Replacement

3 Construction

9 Misc

2022- 61 total inspection conducted, 15 more Zone 1 is due in 2022

27 Zone 1

17 Real Property Transfer

2 Repairs

7 Replacement System

2 Construction

6 Misc

2023- 54 total inspections conducted, 12 more Zone 1s due in 2023

24 Zone 1

11 Real Property Transfer

10 Repairs

2 Replacement System

5 Construction

2 Misc

If any residents have questions regarding the watershed inspection program, they may call the office at 315-536-5188.

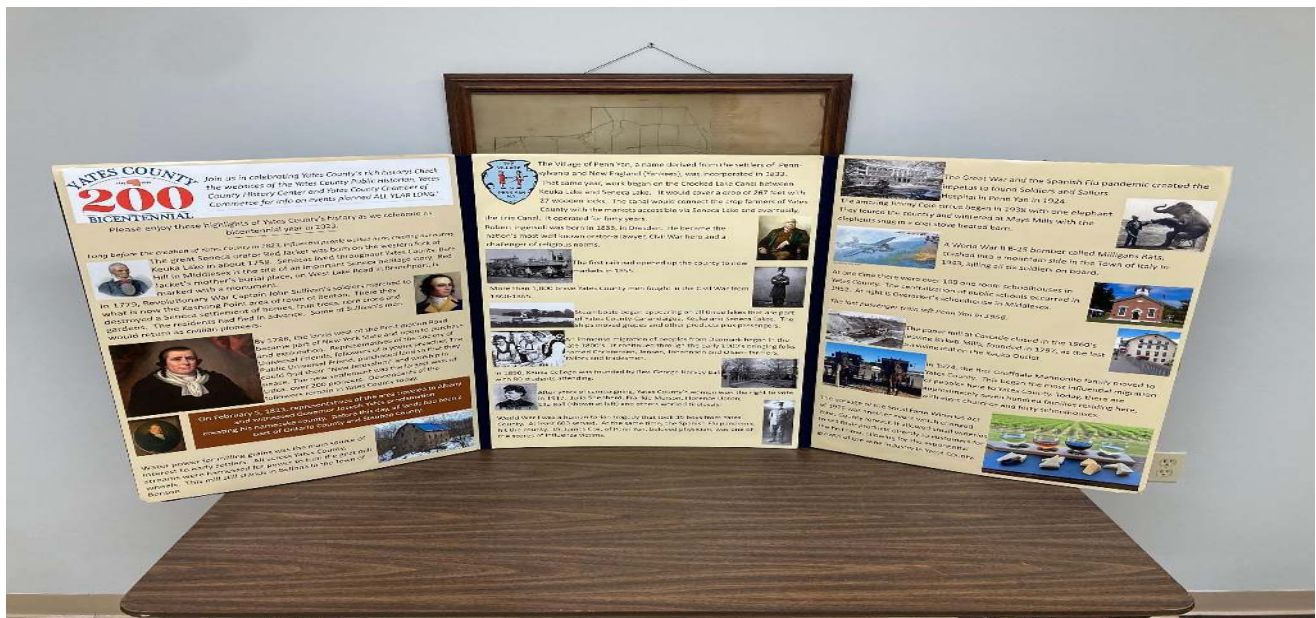
Soil & Water also continues to interact with all of our local farmers utilizing NYS's Agricultural Environmental Management program. This program has been utilized in the county since 1997. We have worked with local farmers on a suite of practices including soil erosion and field runoff, manure storage, barnyard runoff, and manure and nutrient management.

A Land Use Leadership Alliance (**LULA**) event on May 9th & 10th and June 6th & 7th from 9:00 am to #:00 pm at the Yates County Building in Penn Yan.

From the Desk of the Mayor of Dresden (Bill Hall):

- Mayor Bill Hall (Term: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025)
- Village Trustees
 - Brian Flynn (Term: April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2024)
 - Bret Siegrist (Term: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025)
- Village Board meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm
- Colleen Riviello is the Village Clerk. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 2:00pm, phone number 315-536-2477. Her email address is- villageclerk@villageofdresden.org
- Village of Dresden election for Trustee will be held March 19, 2024 at the Village Office.
- The village is seeking to act as the lead agency under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (**SEQRA**) for the Village of Dresden Water System Main Replacement Project.
- At the Village's December 20th meeting it was announced the Village was awarded a \$4.166 million grant for its Water System Main Replacement Project
- The Village of Dresden continues to improve the appearance of the village. To this end, materials have been purchased and delivered for a "Train Station" Gazebo at the northwest corner of Geneva and Main Street. The construction at the green space area will occur in the Spring of 2024.
- Dresden Fire Department meets the first Tuesday of the month. There is a need for volunteer firemen in Dresden. All residents of the Town of Torrey are encouraged to volunteer.

From Yates County Legislators (Terry Button, Richard Harper, Rick Willson)



Yates County Bicentennial on display at the Torrey Town Hall in November 2023



Town of Torrey Poster contribution to the Yates County Bicentennial ceremony held in the Village of Dresden on July 15, 2023. (created by Town Historian Nancy Sarver).

- Is implementing a program of sharing "revenue" with the towns and villages in the county.
- There are three new programs starting in January sponsored by the Pro Action Yates County Office for the Aging.

*First, starting January 2nd there is a **Bone Builders** class to be held Tuesdays and Thursdays through March 21st from 10 -11 a.m.

*Second, starting January 8th there is a **Tai Chi Beginners** class to be held on Mondays through March 18th from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

*Third, starting January 17th there is a **Bingocize** class to be held on Wednesdays through May 29th from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

These programs are to be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Penn Yan
Call Pam Swarthout at 315.279.4321 to register or for more information.

- Work continues on the ReConnect Grant, a three(3) phase project to bring broadband internet capability throughout the County. Communication Towers are being constructed at this time.
- Ground has been broken on the new County Highway Building in the Town of Benton with the steel framework put in place
- Yates County will have an ambulance service providing 24/7 Advance Life Support (ALS).
- A Hazard Mitigation Plan grant has been accepted and Brian Winslow is the coordinator. The Yates County municipalities have submitted their portions to the subcontractor TetraTech.
- The Yates County radio tower project has been completed
- The County has purchased software that identifies properties that are being used as rentals. The data will be shared with the nine(9) towns in the County
- State Senator Tom O'Mara and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano visited Yates County on October 11th in the Legislative Chambers.
- Additional information regarding Yates County Government can be found on the website- www.yatescounty.org

Community Events

- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) puts out each week a bulletin detailing proposals and actions throughout the State.

The Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) is available at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>

Yates County is in Region 8

- **Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO)** last meeting was held on October 30, 2023 at the Geneva Town Hall. It was reported **SWIO** is spearheading the Crooked Canal (Keuka Outlet) Engineering Project which was initially funded by Yates County to address issues with Crooked Canal. The purpose is to see if water can be diverted during storm events using natural systems engineering. A \$314k grant (with no match) was received from the USDA to support a full engineering development. Wetland Delineation and Preliminary Designs are completed. A Pre-permit application is being finalized for submission. Signage being done with Keuka College design students.
- Great Lakes Commission Sediment & Nutrient Program – Cover Crops fully implemented in Ontario, Seneca and Schuyler Counties.
- Grants – USFS Native Plantings Grant. Partnering with municipalities to plant native trees on public property. FLI would provide all materials, municipalities to plant and maintain. Additional requirement to host an outreach event that looks to target the private sector (developers, landscapers, etc) as well.
- The next SWIO meeting is *January 29, 2023 at the Village of Dundee*.
- **YATES COUNTY Board of Elections** has purchased new voting machines which are expected to be used on April 2, 2024 for the Presidential Primary. Voting will be at the Torrey Town Office from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm. Early voting will also be available at the Yates County Office Building on Liberty Street from March 23rd to March 30th. Additional information regarding the Board of Elections can be found on their website- boardofelections@yatescounty.org
- **Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA)** started monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on August 1st by local volunteers and continued

through Columbus Day weekend. Check their website www.SenecaLake.org for additional information or to volunteer!

- **Friends of the Keuka Outlet** (FOTO) will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 4th at its campground (a lean to and 3 tent platforms on Hopeton Road. Check the **FOTO** website www.KeukaOutletTrail.org for details of this event and others as well.
- **Yates Transit Services** provides public bus service throughout the County including a route from/to Dresden and Penn Yan. Call 315.694.7700 or go to their website- yatestransitservice.com for additional information.

From the Desk of the Newsletter Editor (*Grant Downs*):

- The response to the town newsletter continues to be very positive. Additional feedback and/or comments are welcome and can be submitted by either calling 315-536-6376 or sending an email to: townclerk@townoftorrey.com
- Newsletters will also be posted on the Town of Torrey website: <https://townoftorrey.org>
- Delivery of the Town Newsletter will be electronically only, although there will be a limited number available at the Town Office and Village of Dresden office.
- Those wishing to have future newsletters sent by email should provide the following information and send it to the town clerk:

NAME: _____

EMAIL Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____