



# PULTENEY GRAPEVINE

WINTER 2011

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Pulteney Grapevine, a newsletter about services and happenings in Pulteney. This newsletter is compiled and distributed by the Pulteney Free Library to help spread information throughout the community. A grant to the Steuben Senior Services Fund (SSSF) from Keuka Area Fund of the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes is making this newsletter possible. Included in this issue are services available in Pulteney from local organizations and county agencies.

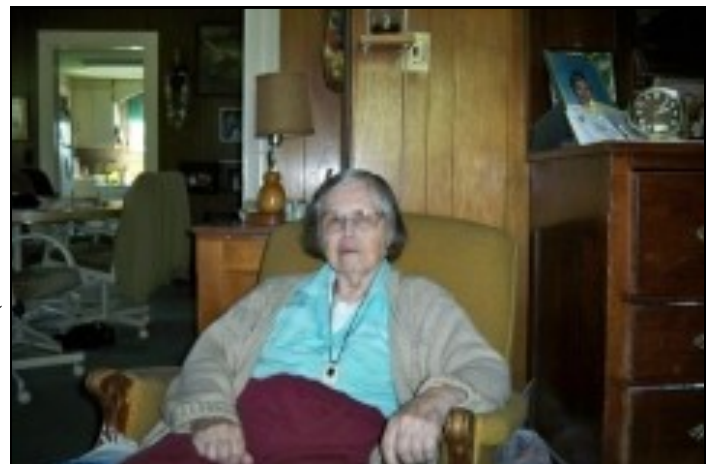
Longtime Pulteney resident, Harriet Bennitt reluctantly made the decision that she would need some help to continue living in her own home. As Mrs. Bennitt stated, “you sometimes have to humble yourself and ask for help.” “I’ve always been on the giving end, so it is a difficult thing to have to ask for help.” However, faced with incapacitating wrist pain and carpal tunnel surgery, Mrs. Bennitt made a call to Pulteney Aging in Place Coordinator Kathy Burns for assistance with transportation. After speaking with Kathy, Mrs. Bennitt agreed that she could probably use some other help as well, so in addition to medical transportation Kathy referred Mrs. Bennitt for home delivered meals.

Mrs. Bennitt was born and raised in the Tyrone area and at the age of 17 married her husband and moved with him to his hometown of Pulteney. There they raised two children; their daughter who passed away a few years ago, and their son who now lives in Arizona.

Mr. Bennitt worked at the Rand in Painted Post, and she worked in their vineyards tying grapes and driving a tractor. As Mrs. Bennitt jokingly states, “I was the hired hand.” Mr. Bennitt died about 16 years ago, and Mrs. Bennitt has continued to live in the same house she first moved into as a new bride 67 years ago.

After her husband’s death, Mrs. Bennitt began volunteering at the Penn Yan Hospital and also worked as a volunteer at the Pulteney Free Library. She was later hired there under the Green Thumb Program. Although she is lonesome at times, Mrs. Bennitt likes to stay involved and still gets out to church each week, goes to the senior citizens group in Prattsburgh each month, and walks two miles almost every day in good weather. In addition, she loves to read, mostly Christian fiction, and to listen to music. Mrs. Bennitt tries to keep a positive attitude and not think too much about her age.

She would like to continue living in her own home for as long as possible. Her two sisters are in a nursing home, which has solidified her resolve to age in place in her own home. She says that by staying at home she will be able to do as she pleases—“to take a nap when I want to and to eat when I want to”.



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## PULTENEY FREE LIBRARY

Not one, but TWO Birthday Celebrations were held in recognition of the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Pulteney Free Library in early October. Author Robert Gregg (the Crooked Lake Mysteries) was the featured speaker at the evening party on October 4. Proclamations were received from the NYS Assembly, Steuben County Legislature, and Pulteney Town Board in honor of the Anniversary. May Nichols, played by Donna Colvin, also made an appearance to tell about her role as one of the early librarians. May first attended the party held for the children Saturday morning October 1 and shared her story and some butterfly cupcakes with the gang.

The Library and the Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting Breakfast with Santa on December 10 from 9-11:00 at the Pulteney Fire Hall. Donation for admission is one non-perishable item (canned or paper goods) per person to be given to the food pantry. Have your picture taken with Santa.

### HOURS:

TUES - 12 - 8:00

WED - 12 - 6:00

THUR - 12- 8:00

SAT - 9 - 1:00



**Pulteney Volunteer  
Fire Department**

**PULTENEY FIRE DEPARTMENT &  
AMBULANCE CORPS**

This is the time of year to make sure that smoke detectors and CO alarms are in working order. This is also the time to have your chimney cleaned going into the winter heating season. If you don't have a health file with your medical information, including medications, allergies, DNR, and contact information now is a good time to get one. Please put it on your refrigerator where it can easily be found in an emergency. Files can be obtained from Steuben County Office for the Aging - Kathy Burns, the Pulteney Free Library and from a member of the Pulteney Ambulance Corps.

Members of Helen Coombs' family, and some of her friends and colleagues, participated in the dedication of a granite bench in her memory, on a gorgeous Sunday in early October. The bench was funded by gifts from Helen's friends in the community. It's located at her gravesite, overlooking Keuka Lake, and bears an invitation for folks to "Come sit by me."

## GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Grace Fellowship Church has continued its face-lift projects during the good fall weather. The remaining work will be on hold now, until the arrival of Spring 2012. Meanwhile, there will be plenty of fellowship available for everyone through regular Church activities. Pastor Larry Slater writes that "exciting things are happening at Grace Community Fellowship! We've been working on the painting project, and have finished the south side and the front. We expect to replace the south side roof next year, as well as finishing the painting job. We've been blessed with some new families lately, and our Sunday School is growing! We are planning a Christmas Pageant on December 18, with the children doing the Luke Chapter Two narrative on the birth of Christ. We're also continuing our study of the book of Revelation Wednesday evenings at 7:00 at our home on Cross Street."

## **NEWS FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR & TOWN BOARD**

The keen interest our residents have had in the issues surrounding gas drilling has not subsided. At a public hearing on Tuesday night November 22, the Town Board sought public comments on a Town Law governing industrial/commercial siting, as a means of local control over gas drilling and its related activities. After the discussion, the amended Draft Law was referred to the Town's Attorney for review, prior to the regular Board meeting on December 14. The Board also passed a Resolution asking the New York State DEC to exempt the entire Finger Lakes Watershed from gas drilling. In addition to NYS-DEC, copies of the Resolution have been sent to the Governor, and our local representatives and Senators.

The 2012 Budget has been passed, calling for a tax rate increase of less than 5%. This surpasses the State recommendation of 2% and the Town Board passed a local law to make our levy increase meet the State's requirements. Comparing Pulteney's 2010 tax rate to surrounding towns, Pulteney has the lowest rate with the exception of Wayne.

The recent election resulted in two new members of the Town Board, Richard Musso and Nancy Cole; a new Highway Superintendent Terry Gibson; a new Town Justice, Roy Stocking; and a new Town Supervisor, Jane Russell.

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## **PULTENEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

We hear it... leaves have already fallen, the smell of turkeys have begun to fill the air, bells are ringing... we are entering into a season of gratitude, joy, and hope which will prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Our church invites you to join us for worship on Sundays at 9:15am with Sunday school for children during worship. Then stay and fellowship with us; there is always coffee/tea and goodies to share.

Every first and third Monday of the month we gather at church to knit prayer shawls and pray for one another from 11am to 1pm. There is always soup and bread to share. If you need a prayer shawl or know someone who might need one, please contact the pastors.

Weekly Bible study is held on Wednesdays at 11am in the fellowship hall. Right now we are discovering the awesome message of the parables of Jesus.

In December we have many wonderful events and unique celebrations planned beginning with a Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 4 sharing the spirit of hope, life, peace and love. Please visit our website at [www.pulteneypres.org](http://www.pulteneypres.org) for more information. Or you may stop by and pick up the monthly news which may be found on the table at the entrance of the church... the door is open... Please feel free to contact Pastors James and Banu at 607-868-7230 for prayers and more information on our church community.

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## **BONE BUILDERS EXERCISE PROGRAM**

The famous Bone Builders of Pulteney, a group of Seniors who exercise together on Monday and Wednesday mornings at the Fire Hall, has added several new leaders, as well as new exercisers. Barb and Ray Dutcher and Sheila Pizura completed the training class and have joined leaders Rita Finley, Kathy Wheat, Sue Steeves, Nancy Cole and Carole Smith. Sometimes there are as many as 30 members at "Bones", which meets at the Pulteney Fire Hall. Come join us for a low impact workout!

## Coming in January: Senior Dinner Site in Pulteney!!

The First Presbyterian Church will be a dinner site serving lunches for seniors. This program will start in January on Mondays. Contact Pastor Banu Moore - 868-7230 or the Pulteney Free Library - 868-3256 for the start up date & time. If the program is successful a second day or site could be added.



The Town of Pulteney has commissioned six “Welcome to Pulteney” signs. The signs were designed by local artist Brett Steeves and include a beautiful picture of Keuka Lake. They will be located on Routes 78, 76, 75, 74, and 54A after they are all installed.

### NEWSLETTER SPONSORS:

- Pulteney Free Library
- A grant to the Steuben Senior Services Fund (SSSF)

from Keuka Area Fund of the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes.

Thank you to our new sponsors for their generous support:

The Town of Pulteney, First Presbyterian Church of Pulteney, Pulteney Fire Department

If you enjoy receiving the Grapevine, you might consider making a donation to help defray printing and mailing costs. Make checks payable to Steuben Senior Services Fund and send to 3 E. Pulteney Square, Bath, NY, 14810. Indicate “Pulteney Grapevine” on the check, please!



## THE 2011 – 2012 HEAP PROGRAM

The Home Energy Assistance Program, more commonly known as HEAP, opens this year on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Households eligible for HEAP receive a grant, generally sent directly to the heating fuel vendor, to be used as a credit against future bills.

To be eligible for HEAP, you must either be responsible for a heating bill or you must live in a non-subsidized apartment that includes heat in the rent. In addition, your monthly household income (after Medicare premiums have been deducted) must be at or below the following levels:

<b>1-person household</b>	<b>\$2,146</b>	<b>3-person household</b>	<b>\$3,466</b>	<b>5-person household</b>	<b>\$4,787</b>
<b>2-person household</b>	<b>\$2,806</b>	<b>4-person household</b>	<b>\$4,127</b>	<b>6-person household</b>	<b>\$5,447</b>

Regular HEAP is not an asset-tested program. Merely having savings in the bank will not make you ineligible, although interest and/or dividends you earn are counted toward income. (This is true even if they are re-invested rather than paid to you.) There are several ways to apply for HEAP. People of any age can apply in person at interview sites in Bath, Corning, or Hornell. If applying in person, you will need to bring birth certificates, Social Security cards, a heating bill, proof of income, and proof of residence with you. Those aged 60 or over who have difficulty traveling or completing forms may also call the Office for the Aging to request a HEAP home visit or a mail-in HEAP application. Finally, most households that receive Food Stamps do not have to complete a HEAP application, as their benefit is sent automatically.

For general information on the program, those aged 60+ should call their local Office for the Aging.

For information on times, dates, and location of HEAP interview sites, please call Pro-Action at 776-2125 or 1-800-553-2033.

**PLEASE NOTE:** HEAP Benefits this year have been reduced, so the check sent to your fuel dealer will be less than it was last year. In addition, the Emergency HEAP program (used to pay for a delivery if you run out of fuel, a shut-off, electric to run your furnace, and you have no funds to pay for these items yourself) is not scheduled to open until January 3rd. In addition, reduced funding may cause the HEAP program to close earlier than in past years, so you are encouraged to apply for HEAP as soon as possible.

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### Continued from page 1 –Harriet Bennitt

Harriet says that the assistance made possible to her through the Steuben Senior Services Fund Pulteney Project is a big help to her. For her it is a hardship to drive right now. The volunteers recruited through the Pulteney Aging in Place project are very courteous and helpful and make it possible for her to get to her doctor's appointments and even took her to the hospital on the day of her surgery.

By getting home delivered meals, Mrs. Bennitt doesn't have to try to carry heavy bags of groceries home by herself. She is very thankful for the help and would encourage others to call for the services that will help them to age in place. "Humble yourself like I did, and make that call," stated Mrs. Bennitt.

**Pulteney Free Library**  
**P.O. Box 215**  
**Pulteney, NY 14874-0215**

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Hammondsport, NY  
Permit No. 1**

**CALENDAR:**

December 2 - 7:00 pm - Pulteney Free Library Art Night

December 10 - 9:00 - Breakfast with Santa - Pulteney Fire Hall

December 13 - 7:00 - Rubber Stamping with Kathy Wheat - Pulteney Free Library

December 16 - 7:00 pm - Pulteney Free Library Art Night

No Mobile Food Pantry in December

January 6 - 7:00 pm - Pulteney Free Library Art Night

January 20 - 7:00 pm - Pulteney Free Library Art Night

January 26 - 1:00 - 2:00 pm - Mobile Food Pantry - Pulteney Fire Department

February 23 - 1:00 - 2:00 pm - Mobile Food Pantry - Pulteney Fire Department

March 22 - 1:00 - 2:00 pm - Mobile Food Pantry - Pulteney Fire Department

Bone Builders - Mondays & Wednesdays - 9:00 am - Pulteney Fire Department

Pulteney Free Library Story Hour - 9:30 am - Saturdays