

# Tapestry

November 1, 2019  
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Sponsor:  
Marty Proctor, District 18  
Chautauqua Co. Legislator  
Vote on Tues., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>  
Every vote is important!

## Spread The Word

**Yoga - Free**  
**All are Welcome**  
Every M, W, F @ 8:45 am  
Community Center Gym

**Young at Heart Senior Lunch**  
Mondays @ 12 noon  
Call 716.581.3426

**2J's Garbage Pick up**  
Fri., Nov. 1 winter hours begin

**Daylight Savings Time Ends**  
Sunday, Nov. 3

**Mina Town Board Budget Session**  
Thur., Nov. 7, 7 PM  
Mina-FL Community Center

**Town of Sherman Justice Informational Meeting**  
Thur., Nov. 7, 7:30 PM  
Sherman School Auditorium

**Wurst Party Ever**  
Sat., Nov. 9 at 5 PM  
Peek'n Peak Resort

**Lunch & Learn:**  
**Hip, Back, & Tailbone Pain w/ Chris Bailey, DPT**  
Tue., Nov. 12 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Community Center Cafeteria  
For info: 716-769-2473

**Name the Game is now the Mahjong Interest Group!**  
Tue., Nov. 12th and 26th  
2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Community Center Cafeteria  
For info: 716-769-2473

**Mina Town Board Regular Meeting**  
Thur., Nov. 14, 7 PM  
Mina-FL Community Center

**Clymer School Board Meeting**  
Mon., Nov. 18 @ 4 PM  
Clymer Central School

**CCS Board Special Election**  
Mon., Nov. 25, 12 - 8 PM  
Lobby of Clymer School Gym

## Peter Howard Honored as FLVFD Member of the Year



Pete as a teenager

At the Findley Lake Volunteer Fire Department's annual dinner on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at Majestic Woods, Fire Chief Jack Hamilton surprised Pete Howard when he announced that Pete, a lifetime member and current board president, was honored with the distinction of being named member of the year. Pete has been a member of the fire department for 65 years and a few years ago agreed to assist the department through some challenging times by serving as its board president. Under Peter's leadership, the department's membership, operations, and EMT services have all improved.

Pete recalls that he started with the fire department at 18 years old. Family friend Bus Bradley, Fire Chief, came to Pete with an application to join the department. Pete was an EMT and Harold Resinger, who had been a medic in the US Army, started the ambulance service around 1955 in response to Sunday afternoon car races on Sulphur Springs Road. They acquired an old Buick as the ambulance and sat at the race track each week. Pete and Bus disagreed on the importance of having an ambulance service as Bus was more focused on fire services. Pete persevered and eventually the department purchased a used ambulance to replace the old Buick.

Guest speaker was Marty Proctor, Chautauqua County Legislator, who spoke highly of his predecessor, Dave Himelein. Dave was an active member of the fire department for many years and was also involved with the county fire service.



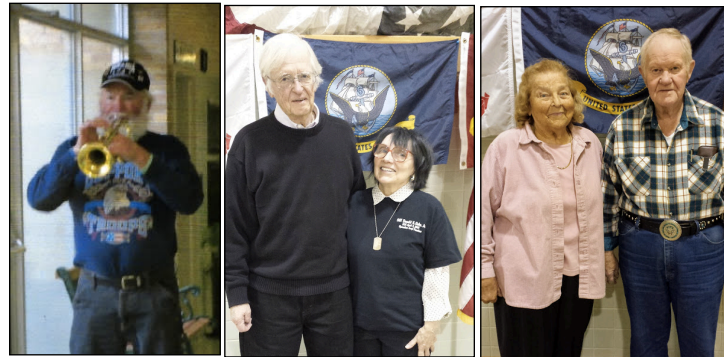
Pete standing next to a picture of his friend, mentor, & Fire Chief Bus Bradley



Above: Pete with Jack Hamilton (2nd from left) and board members Jeff Park (L) and Melissa Gibbons (R)

## Area Veterans are Invited to Dinner Honoring Their Service

On Sun., November 10<sup>th</sup>, Young at Heart will host its 10th annual turkey dinner with all the trimmings to honor local veterans, their families and widows. The meal will be served at the Mina-Findley Lake Community Center at 2 pm and will feature a program to honor area veterans. Guests are welcome and there is no charge for veterans or their guests. Please share this information with area veterans that you may know and encourage them to attend. Young at Heart members ask that you let them know if you are planning to attend so that they know how many desserts to make. Call either Judy Hunt at 716-233-4001 or Joanne Malecki at 716-355-6107 by November 5. Last year we lost Charlie Raven (below left) who was a member of Bugles Across America and who performed at the annual veterans' dinner, Memorial Day Program, and at many veterans' funerals. Also shown (center right) at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual dinner in 2014 are veteran Charles Kent and his wife Medis. Far right, in 2014, are veteran Roger Cooper and his wife Kay. Charles Kent and Roger Cooper both passed away this past year and Kay Cooper passed away in 2015.



## Volunteer Teams Assessed Community Safety and Walkability

On Monday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, twenty-three people broke into eight teams and walked around the community to assess safety issues for walkers and bikers. Utilizing an audit tool kit from AARP, the teams recorded their findings and gathered back together for lunch at the Community Center to debrief and verbally share the results from each walk about. The volunteers were organized by JoAnn Travis who also facilitated the feedback session. Some of the safety findings included the need to add crosswalks at various intersections to assist walkers and motorists with knowing where to cross busy streets, adding sidewalks along downtown streets, removing shrubs and bushes that cause blind spots, and enforcing parking regulations. The data gathered will be summarized and categorized to assist with livable community planning. The project was initiated by the Main Street Advisory Committee (MSAC), a group under the leadership of Community Connections at Findley Lake. Members of MSAC are: Lin Baylis, Rebecca Brumagin, Christine Cheronis, Marlene Garone, Larry Gross, Judy Hunt, JoAnn Travis, and Louise Wiggers.



Volunteers L - R: JoAnn Travis, Cindy Cross, Ginny Smith, Amy Bracken & granddaughter Ada Franks, Mary Ford. Standing: Ellen Shifler, Marlene Garone, Kris Gleason, Kent Wiggers, Louise Wiggers, Chris Cooper, Ron Moore, Joyce Blakeslee, Judy Hunt, Nancy Sonney, Larry Gross, Sally Landis. Not pictured Judy Miller, Melissa Brumagin, Andy Travis



Spread the Word (Con't)

**Lunch & Learn:**  
**Disaster Preparedness**  
**with Arlene Alvarez**  
Tue., Nov. 19  
11:30 AM - 1:00  
Community Center Cafeteria  
For info: 716-769-2473

Sherman FFA Members Are Competing Nationally



Four members of the Sherman FFA (Future Farmers of America) Chapter earned the opportunity to compete for national recognition in a career development event at the 92<sup>nd</sup> National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2. FFA members who will represent the chapter include (in photo left to right): Josie Allen (SCS Class of 2019), Henry Meeder (SCS Class of 2021), Emily Starceski (SCS Class of 2019), and Eric Witherow (SCS Class of 2019). As a team, they placed first in the state-wide agricultural technology and mechanical systems career development event in May 2019 at the State FFA Convention in Syracuse, NY. All four of the team members also placed in the top ten individually. Josie, daughter of Willard & Amy Allen, placed 8<sup>th</sup> at the New York State competition; she attends Penn State Behrend and is majoring in animal science. Henry, son of Curt & Elisabeth Meeder, placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the state level; he is a junior at Sherman Central School. Emily, daughter of Paul & Robin Starceski, placed 6<sup>th</sup> in New York State; she attends Cornell University and is majoring in animal science. Eric, son of Curtis & Kimberly Witherow, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the NYS competition; he attends Jamestown Community College and is majoring in welding. We wish them all success at the National FFA Competition!

Benefit Planned for Justin Gibbons' Family

A dinner is being held on Sat., Nov. 9 from 1 to 5 pm at the Findley Lake Firehall to benefit the family of Justin Gibbons who died tragically on Sunday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Justin leaves behind his wife Cassi Seekings, his children Morgan, Parker, Liam and Gabby, and his parents Mike (Brooke) Gibbons and Melissa (Stacy) Reed. The spaghetti dinner is \$5.00 and organizers are also planning raffles, a Chinese auction, a 50-50, and door prizes.

Ryan Eliason Thru-Hiked the Pacific Crest Trail



After eight months of preparation, 25-year old Findley Lake native Ryan Eliason hiked 2,653 miles in 156 days, wore out six pairs of trail running shoes, and experienced one boulder “explosion.” Starting at the southern terminus at the U.S. Mexican border near Campo, CA on April 19, 2019 (see photo at left), he reached his goal of the northern terminus at the U.S. Canadian border on the edge of Manning Park in British Columbia five months and two days later on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. The PCT passes through 25 national forests and 7 national parks. Its elevation ranges from sea level to 13,153 feet and he experienced the hot desert sun in California as well as snow and ice in the Sierra Mountains. Using a GPS-based app (Guthook) on his smart phone, Ryan always knew precisely where he was on the trail – even when the cell phone was out of range. He had 23 zero-mile days and hiked an average of 20 miles per day with the longest day of hiking 42.5 miles.



Forester Pass in Sequoia National Park- highest point on the PCT.

The scariest part of the journey was a large boulder that he could hear falling down from above him; he wasn't sure where it was or how to protect himself from it. When it landed, it was the size of a truck and was only 30 feet from him. As he trekked the PCT, Ryan amassed several friends, many of whom he knows only by their trail names. Ryan earned the trail name “Piddle” as his friends told him that he liked to piddle around! Ryan said the most rewarding part of the trip was “learning how to be with yourself.” Even though he experienced “a lot of wet feet”, he described the adventure as “awesome” and said “I would do it again, for sure.”



(left to right; bottom to top): At the northern terminus – Ryan “Piddle” from Findley Lake and Dani “Floater” from Chicago, “Kez” from Australia, Kaysen “Old Bag” from California, “Bonus” from Croatia, Kyle “Long Legs” from Washington, and “Seven” from Germany

Ganske Talks About FBI Agent and Spy Robert Hanssen

On Tues., Oct. 22, Michael Ganske (at right) shared a fascinating and disturbing story about a spy, Robert Hanssen, who, after working for only three years as an FBI agent, approached the Soviet Union in 1979 to offer his services. He sold thousands of classified documents to the KGB and compromised the names of KGB agents who were secretly working for the United States, leading to the execution of some of them. Hanssen was arrested in 2001 near his home in Virginia and was charged with selling U.S. intelligence documents to the Soviet Union and Russia over a 22-year period. His motivation was personal monetary gain primarily to fuel his sexual deviancy activities. He was paid more than \$1.4 million for top secret documents on nuclear war strategies, military weapons technologies, and details of the U.S. counterintelligence program. To avoid the death penalty, he pleaded guilty to espionage and was sentenced to 15 life terms without the possibility of parole. Hanssen's traitorous activities have been the subject of various books and movies.



Michael Ganske lives in Clymer, is the founder of Silver Eagle Consulting and is a retired CIA officer, a veteran of the U.S. Army, and served Presidents Ford and Carter while assigned to the White House Communications. Michael's presentation was part of the Lunch and Learn Series sponsored by Community Connections at Findley Lake.

Ron Moore: A Low-Profile Volunteer Who Made a Big Impact



Ron Moore pointing to the triangle area, one of the three areas around Findley Lake that he has been mowing & weeding for 8 yrs.

Volunteer Ron Moore has been beautifying Findley Lake for eight years by mowing the triangle area at the blinking light, the NYS DOT picnic area on Sunnyside and the DEC Fishing Access Area. He brings his push mower and battery-powered weedwhacker from his home in Erie and it takes him about two hours each time he mows all three areas. Ron got started when his friend Edith Warnshuis lived in the apartment behind what is now Twin Docks. He helped her take care of her lakeside lawn and noticed that the DEC Fishing Access Area needed some TLC so he started mowing and weeding that area. The DEC area had unsightly shrubs and brush that needed cleared out, and after Ron cleaned them up, Jack Cooper hauled away the debris. NYS removed the Fishing Access sign while the dam was being worked on and they never rehung it, so Ron contacted Ben Burgess who came down from his farm, dug two holes, placed the posts into the ground, and back-filled around the post holes. Paul Scarem rehung the graphic sign. The New York State picnic access area on Sunnyside Road wasn't being adequately cared for so Ron decided to maintain that as well. His friends Larry & Sheril Rater asked him to mow the triangle area by the blinking light – and, in true form, he took on that project. This year he decided that it was his goal to have some individuals or some agency take over the mowing at the end of the 2019 season - and those plans are in the works.

Who is this dedicated community volunteer? Although he never lived in Findley Lake, Ron loved Findley Lake and has fond memories of the roller rink, Ship'n Shore and swimming lessons in the lake. His second cousin, Geneva (Jean) Skuse lived in Findley Lake most of her life. She died in 2015 at 104 years old. Ron was raised in Clymer, moved to Sherman in his sophomore year and graduated in 1959. He was a farm credit loan officer in the Carlisle/Chambersburg, PA area for 25 years. He and his wife, Gloria, currently live in the Belle Valley area of Erie.

Thank you, Ron, from a grateful community for setting the example of a helper who sees a need and with no fanfare takes the initiative to complete the task. Well done!