

NEW BALTIMORE NEWS

Volume 5 Issue No. 1

January—March 2009

Food and fun for seniors (and juniors too)

Food and Fun for Seniors" is the name of a program which began in January and is held the second Wednesday of each month at the New Baltimore Reformed Church from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Everyone from the community is welcome to attend no matter what your age.

On April 15th the fourth in a series of luncheons will be held at the New Baltimore Reformed Church. Open to seniors (and juniors!) in the New Baltimore community, we hope this will provide a forum that will help identify any needed services for our seniors as well as the opportunity to get out to see old friends and share old times, interests, and concerns. The Town of New Baltimore Town Board and the New Baltimore Reformed Church welcome any and all input.

For questions, ideas for future programs or to make reservations, please call 756-8674 or 522-3576.

Bicentennial Committee

In February, the Town Board passed a resolution establishing a Bicentennial Committee, which will begin planning the 2011 celebration of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Town of New Baltimore.

If you have a particular story or picture that you would like to share, or if you have an idea for a particular celebration event, we ask that you come and share them with the committee. If you are interested in joining the Committee or if you would like to just attend a meeting to observe, please join us. Future Meetings are scheduled for April 18 and May 16 at the New Baltimore Town Hall. All are welcome.



At the Seniors Valentines Day Celebration: Fran and Bud Mellick; Marian and Steve Schwebler



Dates Set for 2009 New Baltimore Farmers Market

Opening day for the 2009 season of the New Baltimore Farmers' Market has been set for June 13th. Last year's market was a tremendous success and the Farmers' Market Board has been meeting all winter to discuss ways of building on the popularity and better serving more of our own citizens.

Most of last year's vendors will be returning, including Otter Hook Farm with fresh produce, Ravens' Roost Farm with lamb and lamb products and the Artful Vegan with fresh bread and other baked goods. The New Baltimore Reformed Church will also be selling baked goods. The popular tradition of free coffee will also be continued into the market's second year.

Once again, entertainment will be a part of each market, with musical guests and demonstrations planned.

This year, the market will include a special community table, where citizens can post ideas or services offered or just connect with other citizens.

Any other ideas are appreciated. Those who wish to volunteer or be a part of the citizens committee can email Diane Louis at Dlcasbeer@aol.com. Anyone interested in being a vendor can get further information from Sue McCuen at 756-6842 or Themccuens@yahoo.com or check the market's website: NewBaltimoreFarmersMarket.com.

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Community News and Issues

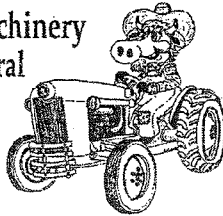
Agfest 2009

The 18th annual Agfest is scheduled for the weekend of June 6th and 7th. The Antique Machinery and Agricultural Festival is a celebration of the history of agriculture in the region, featuring two packed days of music, demonstrations and activities for kids and adults.

This year's displays include touch and go planes, hit & miss engines and John Scott's working portable saw mill. The weekend will also be filled with musical performances by The Shovel Back Band, Music Magic by Kevin Hotaling and Squeeze Play with Steve Schwebler.

It's always a great weekend for kids, and this year is no exception. A bouncy bounce will be set up and the children's

New Baltimore Antique Machinery & Agricultural Festival



tent will be set up with painting, coloring, face painting, a sandbox filled with corn and a tractor maze.

Prizes will be given out for the pie eating and pudding drop contests and the Agfest Idol contest should be a highlight of the weekend.

Plenty of food will be available, from the barbecue and breakfast prepared by Cornell Hook and Ladder Co.

and the Ladies Auxiliary. Frozen desserts and lemonade by Guido will also be sold.

Bids for the Silent Auction benefiting the festival will be taken both days under the big tent. The auction will feature merchandise and gift certificates donated by local businesses.

Agfest is held at Van Etten Farm in New Baltimore. It is sponsored by the Town of New Baltimore and Greene County Promotions and Economic Development Office, Stewarts and other businesses in the community. For more information, call 756-2793 or 756-3517.

New Baltimore Filmmaker Jonathan Donald Explores History of Greene County

New Baltimore filmmaker Jonathan Donald has spent the last three years delving into Greene County's history and he has come up with some surprising results.

"Greene County has been the source of more people and events of state, national and even international significance than one would ever expect," he says. The results of his investigations have been put together into a documentary, "Greene County, USA: A Local History of National Importance," which will air on PBS this September.

Donald was originally introduced to the idea twenty years ago, when the Greene County Historical Society asked him to take on the project. Though that wasn't the right time, Donald thought about it over the years. "Then I realized that Raymond Beecher was getting on in years. He's done so much for the county that I thought this was something I could do to honor his work."



Jonathan Donald with Raymond Beecher

Greene County has been the home to many entrepreneurs, ideas and inventions, Donald says. Levi Hill, for example, has been acknowledged by the Smithsonian as having invented the first color photo process in the 1840's. "Hill was a great threat to the daguerreotypists in New York City, who conspired to obscure his fame."

The Hudson River School of Art was the first native art school and is credited with helping to launch American tourism as people became aware of the beauty of the Catskill Mountains and flocked to the great hotels and resorts which were built in the mountains.

Donald's film incorporates old graphics, documents, maps and reenactments to capture the history of the county and its people. The reenactments include the kidnapping of a Whig judge by Tories and a tavern scene portraying the Dutch celebrating William of Orange's invasion of England.

"I think Greene County is special," Donald says. "I've discovered more significant history of national importance in this quiet little place."

A local premiere of "Greene County USA" is scheduled for September 12th at the Catskill Community Theater in Catskill.

Town Board Reorganizes for 2009

Each year, the first Town Board meeting of the year is set aside as an Organizational Meeting at which dozens of Resolutions are adopted to shape the Town's administration for the coming year. On January 5th, the Town Board held its Organizational Meeting.

Please find below a summary of the major actions taken at the Town Board's 2009 Organizational Meeting:

- The Greenville Press was designated as the Official Town Newspaper.
- Greene County Commercial Bank and the National Bank of Coxsackie were designated as banks where town funds may be deposited (NOTE: Town Justices use Key Bank, which does not require Town Board authorization)

Town Board Committees were established:

Highway

Chair: David Louis

Member: Chris Norris

Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement

Chair: Chris Norris

Member: Art Byas

Wastewater Treatment

Chair: David Louis

Member: Art Byas

Assessment

Chair: Kevin Kuenster

Member: David Louis

Grants

Chair: Kevin Kuenster

Member: Arlene McKeon

Animal Control

Chair: Art Byas

Member: Arlene McKeon Member:

Personnel

Chair: David Louis

Member: Arlene McKeon

Agriculture

Chair: Kevin Kuenster

Buildings & Grounds/ Recycling-

Chair: Art Byas

Member: Kevin Kuenster

Insurance

Chair: Chris Norris

Member: David Louis

Zoning and Planning

Chair: Arlene McKeon

Member: David Louis

Promotion & Economic Development

Chair: Chris Norris

Member: Kevin Kuenster

Fire, EMS & Law Enforcement

Chair: Chris Norris

Member: David Louis

Parks

Chair: Arlene McKeon

Member: Kevin Kuenster

Technology/Website

Chair: Arlene McKeon

Member: Chris Norris

Salaries

Salaries were set for 2009, as follows (annual, except where noted)

Town Supervisor: \$8,975

Town Board Member: \$4,100

Town Justice: \$10,610

Town Supt. Of Highways: \$50,440

Town Clerk: \$27,456

Tax Collector: \$6,430

Town Assessor: \$19,760

Justice Clerk: \$30,256

Deputy Justice Clerk: \$24,030

Assessor's Clerk: \$10.50 per hour

Chief Wastewater Treatment

Plant Operator: \$18,900

Part Time Wastewater Treatment

Plant Operator: \$13.00 per hour

Animal Control Officer: \$3,850

Planning Board Chair: \$2,300

Planning Board Vice Chair: \$850

Planning Board Member: \$750

Zoning Board of

Appeals Chair: \$700

Zoning Board of

Appeals Member: \$300

Board of Assessment

Review Chair: \$250

Board. Of Assessment

Review Member: \$200

Town Historian: \$1,520

Deputy Town Clerk: \$11.89/hour

Zoning/Planning

Building Clerk: \$11.89/ hour

Sr. Building Inspector/Code

Enforcement Officer: \$16.64/hour

Building Inspector/Code

Enforcement Officer: \$15.08/hour

Data Collector: \$10.00/hour

Parks Director: \$475/week during

Summer Parks Program

Deputy Highway Supt.: \$17.77/hour

Heavy Machine

Operator: \$16.55/hour

Highway Laborer: \$13.00/hour

Part-Time Highway

Laborer: \$11.50/hour

Part-Time Wastewater

Laborer: \$10.38/hour

Other Actions

•Appointed officials who use their vehicles on town business are reimbursed for mileage at the rate of \$0.55 per mile, which is equivalent to the federal government reimbursement rate

Official Meeting Schedule Adopted:

Town Board Regular Meeting: 2nd Monday of month at 7:30 p.m.

Town Board Work Meeting: 4th Monday of month at 7:30 p.m.

Town Board News and Issues

Town Board Report

The Town Board has met in regular monthly meetings held on January 5th, February 9th and March 9th. Public Hearings were held on January 5th for purposes of hearing public comment on Local Law 1 of 2009 (setting sewer use rates for 2009) and Local Law 2 of 2009 (making technical amendments to the Town's Zoning Ordinance), and on January 26th to hear public comment on Local Law 3 of 2009 (establishing a new schedule of property tax exemptions for senior citizens and persons with disabilities).

Here is a summary of the actions taken at these meetings:

January 5th

- The Town Board adopted Local Law 1 of 2009, establishing sewer use fees for New Baltimore Sewer District No. 1 for 2009. The sewer use fees were virtually the same as those in effect for 2008.
- The Town Board adopted Local Law 2 of 2009, enacting revisions to the Town's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map to make minor technical revisions to the zoning changes adopted in November, 2008, pursuant to Local Law 4 of 2008.
- The Town Board authorized the transfer of \$15,000 from the Highway Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment in accordance with the 2009 Town Budget.
- The Town Board, following a bid opening held earlier, accepted a bid in the amount of \$18,854 from Crossroads Ford & Mercury to sell the Town a 2006 Ford F350 Truck for use by the Town Highway Department, and authorized the expenditure of \$18,854 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment as the source of funds for the purchase of this truck.
- The Town Board authorized attendance at the annual meeting of the Association of Towns of the State of New York.

- The Town Board authorized a renewal of the Special Use Permit for JB Car Services for the processing of junk vehicles.

February 9th

- The Town Board adopted Local Law 3 of 2009, establishing a new schedule of real property tax exemptions for persons sixty-five years of age or over and persons with disabilities and limited incomes. The maximum income for the highest (50%) exemption was increased from \$18,500 to \$19,500, and the maximum income for any exemption was increased from \$26,900 to \$27,900.
- The Town Board established the Town of New Baltimore Citizens' Bicentennial Celebration Committee to undertake the planning of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Town of New Baltimore to be held in 2011. Town resident Joyce Schoenig was appointed as the Chair of this committee.
- The Town Board authorized Supervisor Louis to execute the 2009 Contract for ambulance service to be provided by the Ravena Rescue Squad to New Baltimore Ambulance District No. 1 (eastern part of the Town), for a total cost of \$18,000.
- The Town Board adopted Resolutions in opposition to the following 2009-10 State Budget proposals from the Governor:
 - Opposing the proposal to restructure funding for youth development and detention programs into block grant funding
 - Opposing the proposal to freeze property tax payments made by the State of New York on state owned land.
- The Town Board adopted amendments to the 2008 Town Budget to allow for the 2008 books to be closed.

March 9th

- Following a public bid opening, The Town Board authorized the sale of the following used equipment:

— 1993 Ford F-350 Dump and Plow for the amount of \$4,501

— Bolens 18HP Tractor with Front End Loader for the amount of \$2,075

- The Town Board authorized the expenditure of \$1,250 for the Food and Fun for Seniors Program, which is open to all town residents, being held each month at the New Baltimore Reformed Church. This program is being funded from an appropriation made in the 2009 Town Budget for senior citizen programs.

- The Town Board authorized the expenditure of \$500 to the New Baltimore Farmers' Market to assist the Farmers' Market for its 2009 season.

- The Town Board authorized the expenditure of \$100 to the Town of New Baltimore Citizens' Bicentennial Celebration Committee to defray the cost of postage and office supplies as they begin operation to celebrate the Town's 200th birthday in 2011.

- Supervisor Louis briefed the Town Board and the public regarding the funding opportunities that may be available to the Town from the Federal Stimulus Program. Supervisor Louis reported that the Town would not be eligible for funding for drinking water projects, as the current hamlet water project is not shovel ready since voters had failed to give approval to a cost increase in 2006. The Town will also not be eligible for highway funding since Stimulus funds can only be used for roads that are part of the Federal Highway Aid system (local roads are not classified as being a part of this system). The Town may be eligible for funding for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects; these details are still being worked out at the federal and state level and the Town will identify potential energy efficiency and alternative energy projects involving town buildings and facilities to be ready to seek stimulus funds as they become available.

Planning Board Report January

February's report to the Town Board outlined the Planning Board's meeting on January 9, 2009, where the following business was transacted:

Held discussion with Paul Schiller regarding status of his Site Plan and the completion of the log home sales center.

The Planning Board also held a Work Meeting on January 22, 2009, for the purpose of familiarizing the Board with the Conservation Subdivision portion of revised zoning.

February

The Planning Board met on February 12, 2009, and continued discussion with Paul Schiller regarding status of his Site Plan for the log home sales center; and approved a one-year extension of Site Plan for Jyoti SAI Hospitality, LLC, for Holiday Inn Express.

Zoning Board of Appeals Report

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in February or March as there were no applications to come before the Board.

Building and Code Enforcement Reports

Senior Code Enforcement Officer/ Building Inspector John Cashin reported for January: New Building Permit Applications Received – 1; Car Restoration Permit Application – 1; Pool Permit Applications – 1; Building Permits Issued – 1; Building Inspections – 20; Certificates of Occupancy granted – 2; Certificates of Compliance Granted – 3; Junk Vehicle Complaints – 2; Court Appearances – 1; Zoning Violation Investigations – 2; Code Violation Investigations – 8; Commercial Site Fire Inspections – 1; for total January application fees - \$ 210.00; and Total Fees for Year to Date: \$210.00.

No report for February was given at March's Town Board meeting.

Assessor Report

In February Assessor Gordon Bennett reported applications are continuing to come in for STAR Enhanced Exemption renewals. Property owners are returning their completed forms for **aged and other exemption renewals**; a good percentage have returned their forms to the office to date and follow-up contact is being made for any incomplete applications. Town Data Collector, Don Daoust is presently in the field for annual review of the 2009 Roll. The open building permits have been prioritized, enabling Don to be more proficient in his review time.

In March 2009 Report to the Board, Gordon Bennett reported that Field review has been prioritized and the Annual Review is in Progress. Also, assessment change notices will be sent to property owners whose assessments have changed due to construction and/or new data inventory. The Valuation Tentative Roll Schedule for 2009 has been published as follows: March 10th and 17th 9:00am-1:00pm; May 5th and 12th 9:00am-1:00pm. Grievance Day is set for May 26th and the times available will be 12:00n-3:00 pm and 7:00-9:00 pm; kindly note the Assessor's office will be closed on March 31.

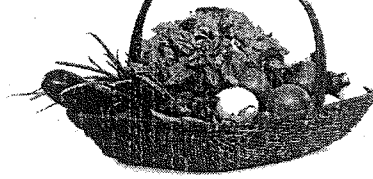
Bicentennial Committee Meets

On February 9, 2009, the Town Board passed a resolution establishing the New Baltimore Citizens' Bicentennial Celebration Committee and charged the committee with the task of undertaking the planning of the 2011 celebration of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Town of New Baltimore by the State Legislature in its 34th Session on March 15, 1811. New Balti-

more citizen Joyce Schoenig was appointed Chair of the Committee. Joyce announced the first meeting of the Committee will be held on February 21, 2009 and invited all residents interested to attend.

On February 21, 2009, the first meeting was held in the home of Jeff and Joyce Schoenig. Attending were Cliff Baldwin, Town Historian Clesson Bush, Rev. Susan Kerr, Susan McCuen, Arlene McKeon, Betty Nickles, John Nickles, Chris Norris, Joyce Schoenig, and Jeff Schoenig. The Committee name of the New Baltimore Bicentennial Committee (NBBC) was chosen as well as a "catch phrase" of "200 Years of Community." Discussions were held on design of a web page attached to the town website; coordination with all community organizations, families, churches, businesses, etc., to contribute histories; and fundraising. It was proposed that local artist talents be used to develop a logo for the celebration. Further discussions included videotaping town residents with ties to the past, present and future; the importance of collecting stories; and several ideas for multiple events to be held throughout the year of 2011 in celebration.

AGRICULTURE



Notes from the Agriculture Committee

The New Baltimore Agricultural Committee has been meeting monthly during 2009. The Agricultural Committee has been focused on both the historical significance of farming in New Baltimore and the potential for a future of flourishing farms in our town.

Members of the Ag Committee visited the Town of Durham, where a group of citizens are working with an organization called the Glynwood Center to create a business plan for promotion of agriculture and forest products. Durham is focusing on grassfed meat as an agricultural product.

The Glynwood Center is an organization that assists communities in assessing their assets and planning for a successful future in agricultural production, while maintaining the integrity of the natural landscape. In February, a

representative of Glynwood Center attended a New Baltimore Ag Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of assisting New Baltimore in formulating a strategy for enhancing and supporting agricultural enterprises in the Town. After meeting with the Glynwood Center and discussing potential for funding such a project, the Ag Committee decided to continue to work on its own to create successful efforts such as the Farmers' Market in pursuit of economic viability for small farms in the area.

During the March meeting, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful to have a map of the Town that highlights natural resources and working farms. In addition to requesting to use maps created for the revision of the comprehensive plan, the Ag Committee will request that Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District create a map of the Town using GIS technol-

ogy. The map will show roads, waterways, forested land and open fields. The map will have many uses, including identifying active and fallow farmland, and forming the basis for a resource guide of farming related products.

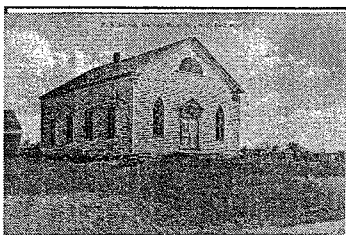
The members of the Ag Committee recognize that remembering the past of farming in our community is an important aspect of moving forward. There are many stories of our farming past that have great value and that should be preserved for future generations. The Ag Committee will be hosting a Farm History Gathering at the Town Hall on Sunday, April 19 at 2 pm. At the gathering, Edger Van Slyke and Pauline Van Etten will recall working in the dairy business during its heyday. Everyone is invited to attend to share stories that they remember about the good old days of dairying. The event will be recorded on digital audio for posterity.

Historical Notes

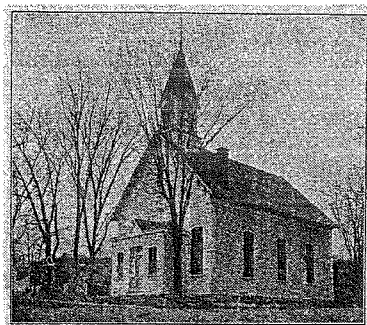
Lost and Sometimes Forgotten

One of the more interesting aspects of being Town Historian is discovering buildings that no longer exist. These locations were busy or useful or perhaps just interesting. A good picture of a lost location opens a whole range of thoughts: who went there, what happened to it, and even where exactly was it located. Here are a few pictures that you might like to see:

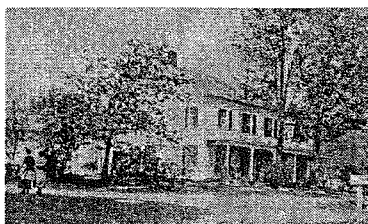
-Cless Bush



Medway Methodist Episcopal Church (west of Medway Congregational Church – torn down ca. 1955)



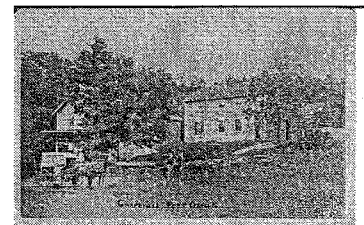
New Baltimore Baptist Church (corner of 144 and Washington Ave – torn down ca. 1930)



Blair Health Farm (by Silver Lake – torn down 1996-7)



The Imperial Hotel and Hinman General Store (east side, corner of Main and Mill Streets - destroyed by fire 1929)



Grapeville General Store and Post Office (today's quiz, where was it? – destroyed by fire ca. 1910)

Events & Announcements

Safety Regulations

Smoke detectors are required in every bedroom and immediately outside of each bedroom. Smoke detectors are also required on every floor. A carbon monoxide detector is required on the lowest level that contains bedrooms.

Make sure emergency services can find your home. New York State Building Code requires address numbers be plainly visible from the road.



New Pastor at Medway Church

The Board of Trustees of Medway Congregational Christian Church, Rt. 26, Climax, has announced the selection of a new pastor. He is Matthew E. Marlow, 25, a recent graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts, where he received a Master of Divinity last December.

Medway, an historic church dating from the 1790s, participated in the Underground Railroad, as a secret relay station for black slaves escaping from the southern states. Sunday church service is at 10:00 a.m.

When asked what new initiatives he may have planned for the church, Marlow answered: "The board and I are agreed that we will have more community outreach dinners, and, in time, we may even do door-to-door home visits, to invite people to worship with us."

Fresh Local Bounty

For those who enjoy fresh produce that is grown locally and organically but don't have the time to garden, New Baltimore's Otter Hook Farm CSA is currently taking members for the 2009 season. If you're interested in a share of produce, call Chris or Samantha at 756-7141.

Fresh lamb is available from Ravens' Roost Farm. Call 731-2536 for more information.

Summer Youth Program Counselors

The Town of New Baltimore will be accepting applications for positions of youth counselors from now until May 15th. Employment applications are available at the Town Hall or online at www.townofnewbaltimore.org.

Even if you have served as youth counselor last year, you must submit a new employment application. Interviews for the position will be held late May or early June.

Parks Director Amy Decker announces that the New Baltimore Summer Youth Program will be held July 20 through August 14, 2009, for a total of four weeks. Children must be five years of age or older.

Town-Wide Cleanup

The annual New Baltimore Town-wide roadside clean-up will be Saturday, May 2, 2009 through Sunday, May 10, 2009.

Please go to County Route 51 Town Hall and sign up for the orange bags and for the road or portion of road you wish to clean. Securely-tied orange bags left at the side of the road will be picked up on Monday, May 4 and Monday, May 11, by the Town's Highway Department.

Enjoy a day outside with friends and family as we renew the roads of our town. Questions? Call Town Clerk at 756-6671 or e-mail to clerk@townofnewbaltimore.org

Thank-you for your help, this year and in the past.

Greene County Sheriff's Satellite Substation Opens in New Baltimore

The basement of the Town Hall has been renovated with bars on the windows, a holding cell and a fingerprinting station. The space will accommodate a staff of four deputies. The officers will be on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Any calls which come in while officers are out of the station will be rolled over to Catskill.

Come see the space and celebrate the opening of the new substation on May 9th, beginning at 12:00 noon. Refreshments will be served.

Town of New Baltimore Emergency Hotline

756-6600

Call during severe weather or other disasters



Town Officials

Supervisor

David Louis

Board Members

Art Byas
Kevin Kuenster
Chris Norris
Arlene McKeon

Planning Board

Lee Davis
Joseph Caputo
Howard Goldson
Kenneth Kuder
Eric Hogland
John Murray
Alta Turner

Zoning Board

Meave Tooher
Marie Corrado
Jack Covey
Anthony Rago
Roger Wilson

Town Clerk

Janet Brooks

Tax Collector

Diane Stuart

Assessor

Gordon Bennett

Town Justices

Joseph Farrell
Joseph Cosenza

Superintendent of Highways

Denis Jordan

Town Board Meetings:

2nd and 4th Mondays

Planning Board Meetings

2nd Thursday*

Zoning Board Meetings

1st Wednesday*

*if no agenda, no meeting

Town Office Hours[†]

Monday—Friday 9-4

Highway Hours

Monday—Friday 7-3

Telephone

(518) 756-6671

Website

www.townofnewbaltimore.org

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