



Community Deer Management

West Seneca, NY

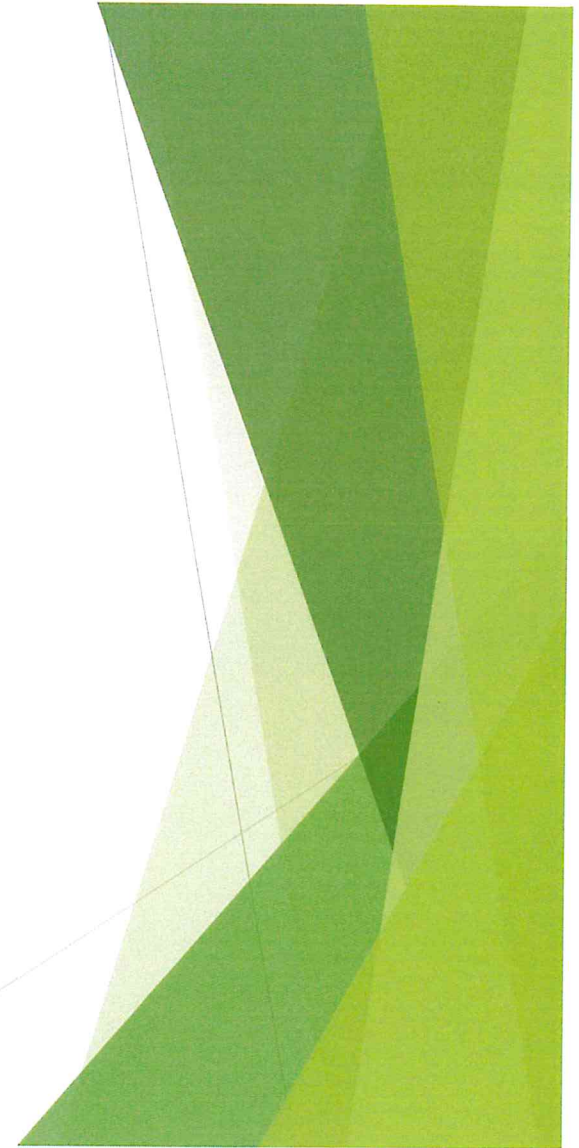
Problem Statement:

- ▶ WHEREAS, there is a significant lack of community knowledge about the complexity of addressing deer in suburban environments.



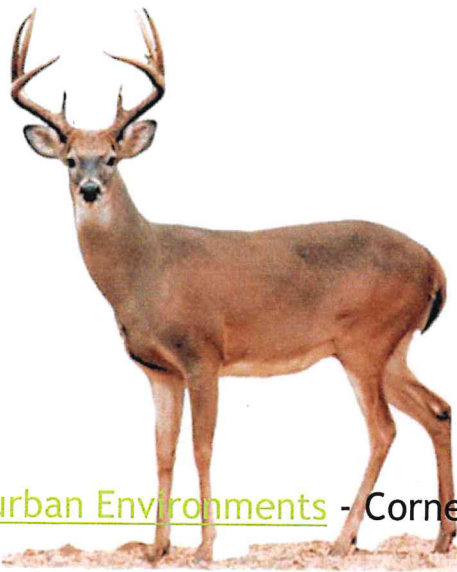
What Information do we want to share with the community?

- ▶ Brief description of white-tail deer anatomy, behavior
- ▶ Local deer population information
- ▶ How the community feels about the deer issue
- ▶ The problems associated with deer overpopulation
 - ▶ Clarification on the problem West Seneca is facing
- ▶ What the West Seneca Deer Task Force is addressing
- ▶ What are some possible solutions or community options for deer control
- ▶ What the community can do to help
- ▶ What is the timeline



White-Tail Deer

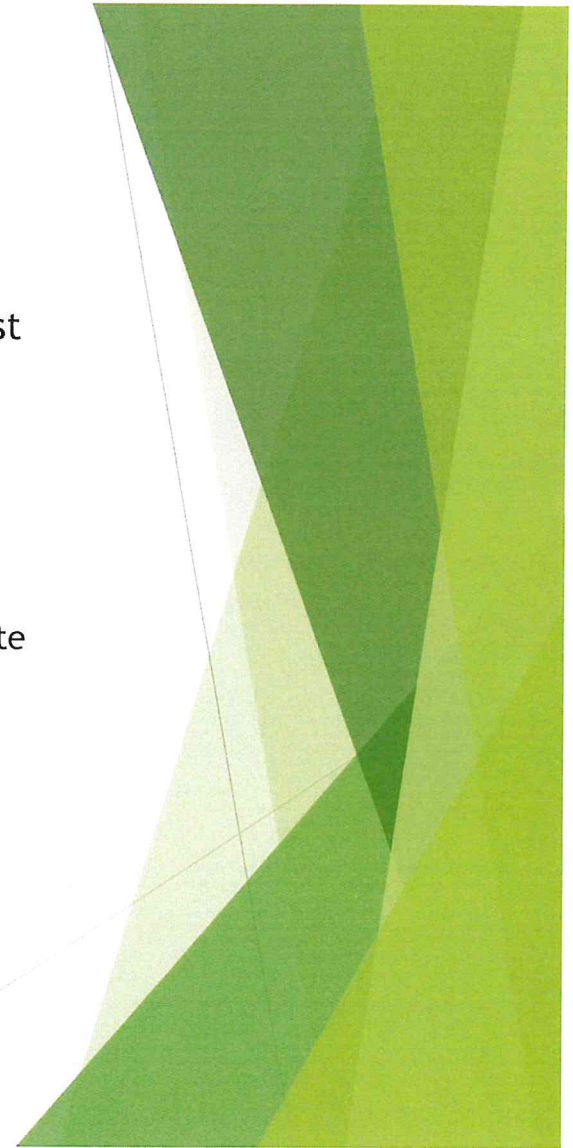
- ▶ Brief description of White-tail deer anatomy
- ▶ Deer diet and behavior
 - ▶ Deer feeding on landscapes, gardens, and crops
 - ▶ Breeding and seasonal tendencies
- ▶ Impact of deer to the community and ecosystem
 - ▶ Positive and negative impacts



[Managing White-tailed Deer in Suburban Environments](#) - Cornell

Local Deer Metrics

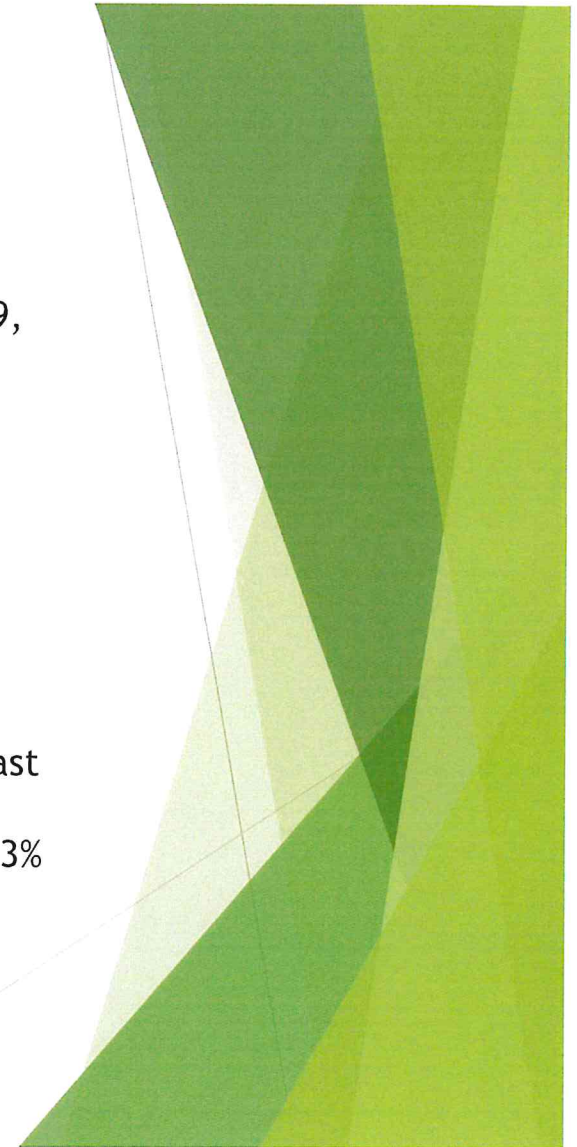
- ▶ Share with the community what we know about the deer population in West Seneca.
- ▶ Why conducting a survey of total population is difficult and expensive.
- ▶ Number of accidents/calls made to local law enforcement.
 - ▶ Some of this information has already been shared on the Deer Task Force Website for the Town of West Seneca.



Community Interest

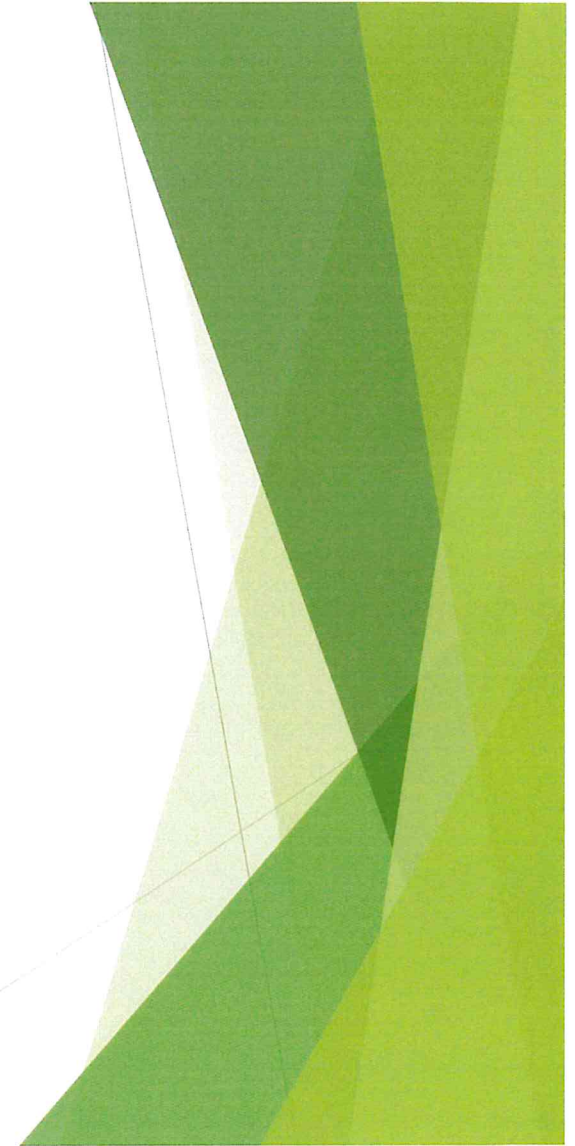
- ▶ Deer Control Survey performed in W.S. between March 2, 2021 and March 9, 2021.
 - ▶ 1,466 total respondents
 - ▶ 642 responded: “Deer are a serious nuisance that require action to reduce the herds”
 - ▶ 664 responded: “Deer are part of the natural world and should be left alone”
- ▶ Overall, the community is split on the deer population issue and how to proceed. Sharing this information with the community should help to at least draw attention to the issue being divisive in nature. It should be noted however that the number of respondents to this survey represents roughly 3% of the population of West Seneca.

[West Seneca Deer Task Force Webpage](#)



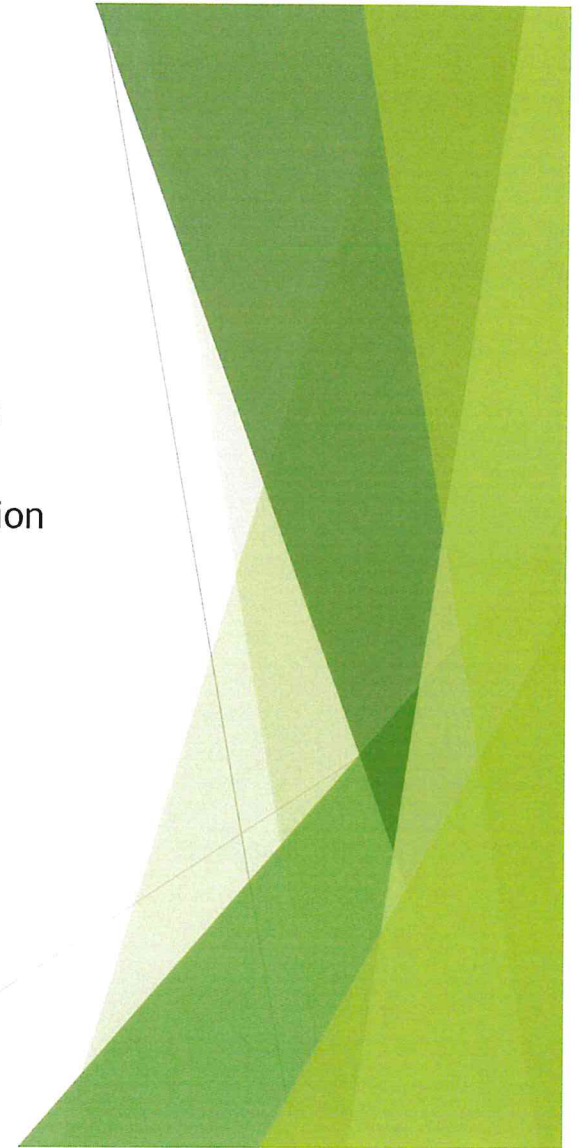
The Problems of Deer Overpopulation

- ▶ Damage to crops, gardens, and home landscaping
- ▶ Fear of increased risk for Tick related illnesses
- ▶ Deer related accidents with motorists
- ▶ Increased risk of diseased and unhealthy deer
- ▶ Damage to the natural ecosystem



West Seneca Deer Task Force

- ▶ Explanation to the public about how the Deer Task Force started, our role, how often we meet, and what our goal is.
 - ▶ We are here to provide information and a recommendation to the Town of West Seneca.
- ▶ Explaining possible recommendations that may result from our determination
 - ▶ Do nothing
 - ▶ Culling - bait and shoot
 - ▶ Fertility Control
 - ▶ Community Education
 - ▶ Habitat Conservation



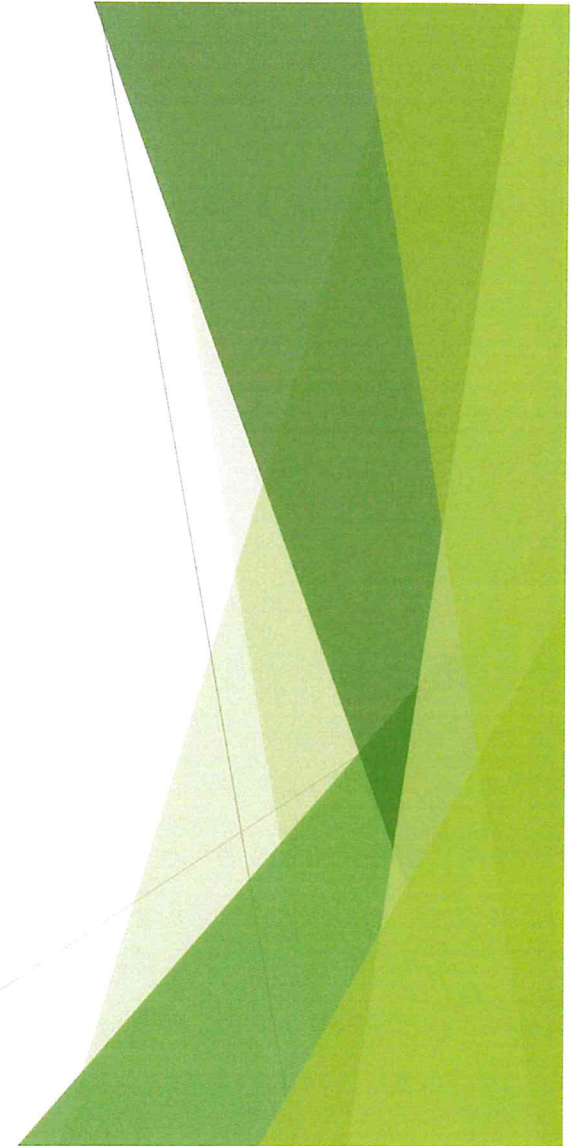
What Can the Community Do?

- ▶ **DO NOT FEED THE DEER.**
 - ▶ Not only is it illegal, feeding increases nuisance behavior and causes deer to congregate in unnaturally high numbers, putting both deer and people at risk.
- ▶ Leave fawns alone
 - ▶ It is normal for does to leave their fawns unattended for long periods each day. Taking in fawns that appear abandoned is illegal and unwarranted.
- ▶ Plan landscapes that are deer resistant
- ▶ Repellent use can be effective but must be well maintained
- ▶ A physical barrier such as a fence can help reduce damage to landscape
- ▶ Report an injured deer or an immediate threat to public safety or animal welfare to local law enforcement.



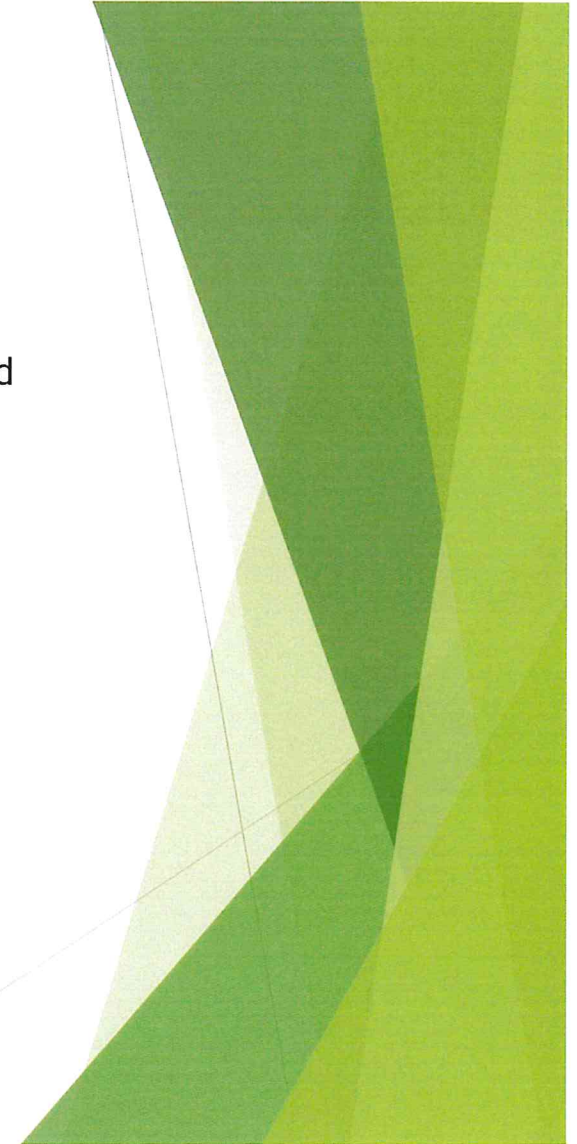
How Do We Share the Information We have with the Community?

- ▶ Press Release - Local Television/News
- ▶ Local Newspaper (i.e. West Seneca Bee, Buffalo News)
- ▶ Webpage
- ▶ Social Media
- ▶ Mailer/Flyer
- ▶ School Involvement
- ▶ Educational Meeting / Forums



Press Release

- ▶ Relatively brief interview with WS government / task force
- ▶ Get the pertinent information out to the public explaining what we are and what the issue is.
- ▶ Include major talking points and resource for the public to comment
- ▶ Limited audience based on viewership.



Local Newspapers

- ▶ Article can be somewhat detailed.
- ▶ Include as many facts as possible while being succinct.
- ▶ Include resource for public opinion and concerns.
- ▶ Limited audience based on readers/subscribers to local newspaper.
- ▶ Will require interest from the publication to print the story.
- ▶ Typically article will also be posted online for major publications.

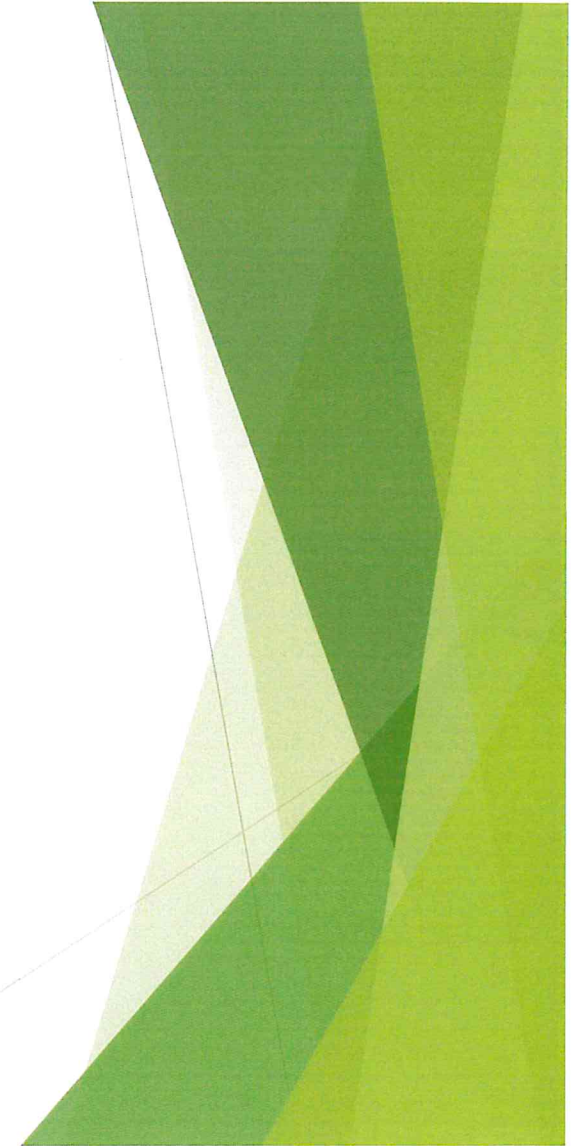


Website

- ▶ Option with the most detail
- ▶ Can include links to sources
- ▶ Can contain a link or resource for public opinion and concerns
- ▶ Searchable on the internet - can be a resource for residents looking for information on the subject
- ▶ Accessible to anyone who can use the internet
- ▶ Some set-up and maintenance required.
 - ▶ DTF already has a webpage set up on the Town of West Seneca

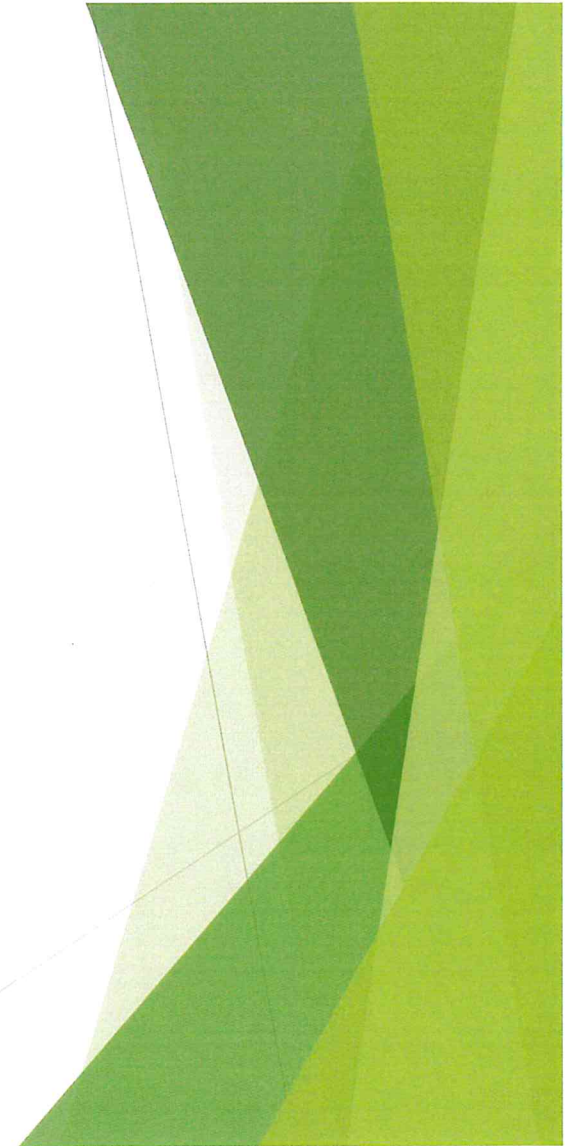
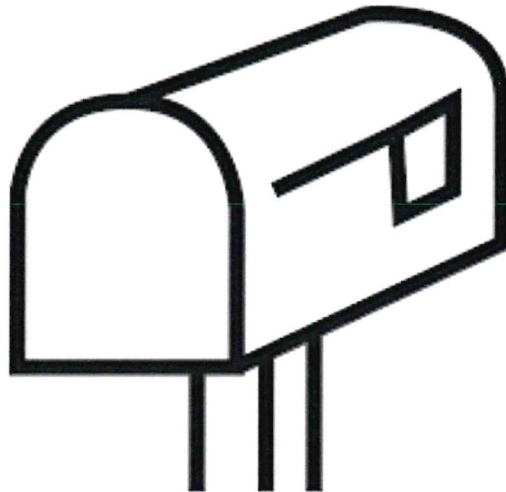
Social Media

- ▶ Effective towards a younger audience
- ▶ Limited viewership based on followers/interested parties
- ▶ Easily Linked to online content like a webpage
- ▶ Easily updated



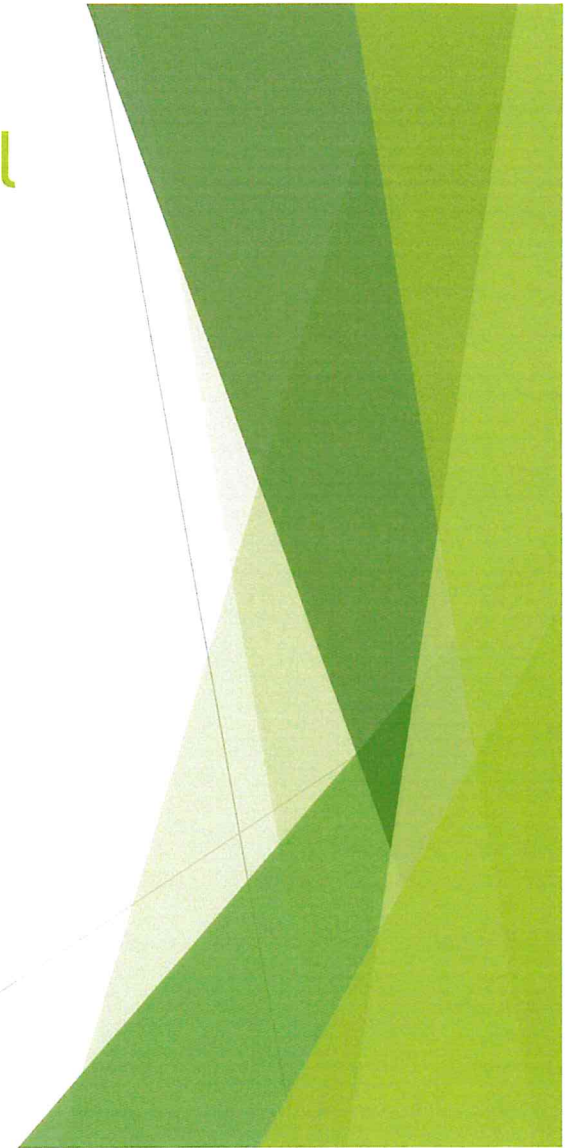
Mailer / Flyer

- ▶ A flyer or informational can be sent out to residents on the deer topic
 - ▶ Not everyone may be interested in reading the flyer
 - ▶ Cost associated with printing and postage



Educational Meetings / Forums / School Involvement

- ▶ Forums or Informationals can be set-up by the town to educate interested individuals in person on the issues.
- ▶ Information is limited to those attending / interested.
- ▶ Can set-up small sessions in local schools to get information to school aged children.



Links

- ▶ [City of Batavia Deer Management Website](#)
- ▶ [News Article Irondequoit Deer Bow Hunt Program - \(Program\)](#)
- ▶ [Town of Elmira Deer Management](#)
- ▶ [Town of Mendon Deer Task Force Webpage](#)
- ▶ [Town of Ithaca Deer Management](#)
- ▶ [West Seneca Deer Task Force](#)

