



# TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

December 2010, January and February 2011



## Town News ... From the Desk of Town Supervisor Donald Cunningham

It seems our fair weather has ended and the reality of what's to come is blanketing my lawn in pure white. Yes the first significant snow has come and another year is closing out. Time does fly. With a new year comes another budget cycle for the town. Our 2011 budget was adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November and it reflects our economic realities. The board worked to reduce appropriations back to 2009 levels, but the anticipated decline in revenues still outweighed those reductions yielding us a slight increase in the tax rate. That increase puts the tax rate at \$2.2655 per thousand and amounts to a little more than 2% over the 2010 rate. I suspect similar challenges over the next couple of years unless there is a significant turn in the economy and buying confidence. I will continue to remind everyone to purchase your goods and services within Genesee County as the revenues from sales tax generated is one of the most significant inflows to the budget for offsetting property taxes.

We have been successful in relocating the bookkeeper's office into the Library Building at 13 S. Lake Ave. and have plans for the historian to move into the building next door at 15 S. Lake Ave. Our goal is to vacate building at 17 S. Lake Ave. in order to shut down utilities until we can finalize plans for that property.

The highway department is prepared to take on the anticipated winter challenges over the next few months and we encourage everyone to drive safe and respect the plows servicing the roads.

**Water Update...**The application for public water to service the North Lake and Peachey Road area has been approved by the State Comptroller and we will now begin the steps for engineering proposals, bidding, and financing. The goal remains to provide this service at the least possible cost to residents within the service district.

**New Appointment...**The town has a new bookkeeper. Tina Wilcox was appointed to this position after our previous bookkeeper, Lori Nelson, passed away unexpectedly. Tina's business background, education, and experience make her well qualified for the position and she quickly learned the towns' software and is getting a handle on a transition that was less than ideal. I look forward to working with Tina and we welcome her as the newest member of the town's staff.

**Community Loss...**As I mentioned above we lost the bookkeeper for the town; Lori Nelson, when she passed away unexpectedly on October 19, 2010. My estimation is that she died before her time, but she certainly had a much fulfilled life. In addition to her position with the town Lori was also a member of the school board. A very active member I might add. She was a doer, always eager to help and willing to go the extra mile when needed. Lori didn't seek the limelight and didn't need accolades. She silently served with results being her primary concern. Her passing is truly a loss to the community and she will be missed by her coworkers at the town, her colleagues on the school board, and friends throughout the Byron-Bergen area.



Our condolences to the Nelson family, Thank you for sharing Lori with all of us!

**Best Wishes to Councilwoman Rachael Millspaugh...**

I'm not certain, but Rachael Millspaugh may have been the youngest board member to be elected in Bergen history. Rachael started on the board after gaining a recommendation by the Bergen Republican Committee to fill a board vacancy. She then interviewed with the board and was awarded the appointment. Rachael was then successfully elected and has been fulfilling board duties for the last 3 years. Rachael's outgoing personality and enthusiasm made her a real asset to the town as she eagerly took on responsibilities to assist in a variety of functions. She made herself available for projects, work days and was appointed to Chair the Parks and Recreation Committee. Ultimately her value was recognized by the Genesee County Economic Development Agency as she landed the position of Marketing and Communications Manager for the group, but unfortunately, the new commitment does not permit her to continue on the town board. I congratulate Rachael on her new position, wish her the best of luck, and thank her for her dedicated service to the town. The town board will seek to fill the vacancy left by Rachael and details are contained in this newsletter.



*I Wish Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday!*

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**Town Positions Available**

**Councilman:**

The Bergen Town Board has a vacancy in the Town Councilman position; the appointment will be for one year and will have to run in the 2011 election to fill the remaining two years of the term. Please send a letter of intent to the Bergen Town Clerk

**Planning Board Alternates:**

The Bergen Planning Board has two openings for alternate board members; please send a letter of intent to the Bergen Town Clerk.

**Bergen Republican Committee**

**Anyone interested in the Republican endorsement for the Town Councilman position should contact Chairman David Roggow at P.O. Box 134**

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**Town Clerk News by *Michele Smith***

**Dog License News:** Beginning January 1, 2011 all dog renewals will be handled by the Town Clerk, the State will no longer be sending out renewal notices and fees will stay in the Town. It is still a law! Please make sure your dogs are licensed and their rabies information is up to date.

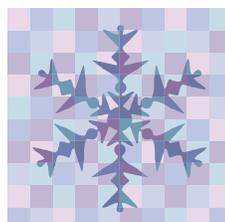
**Office Closing**

**December 24th & 25th – Christmas**

**December 31, 2010 & January 1, 2011 – New Years**

**January 17, 2011 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**February 21, 2011 – Presidents Day**



**Office Hours**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday**

**8:00 am – noon & 1:00 – 4:00**

**Saturday 9:00 am - noon**

**Closed on Thursdays**





Bergen Homesteads of 1904

**GILLETTE - ORCHARD PARK** was owned by G.M.Gillette. This farm contained sixty acres, none of which were timbered, and was situated on Swamp Road, one mile west of Bergen. It had good water supply from wells and was very desirable for general farming, being it was one mile from good markets. It raised wheat, barley, beans, potatoes and apples, and at one time was the largest apple orchard in the town of Bergen, and from this derives its name Orchard Park. The previous owners were, Sylvester Gillette, John H. Southworth, Philip and George Snyder and Humphrey Southworth.

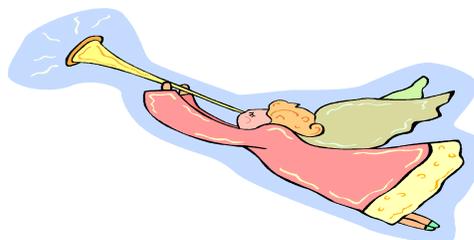
**WILCOX - ROSE LAWN** was owned by H. H. Wilcox. This Farm was two hundred and eleven acres, and was originally four different farms. It was situated on Lake Road, one mile south of Bergen, and seven miles from Leroy. Wells abundantly supplied water, of which there were several on the property. It raised grain, fruit and live stock, besides conducting a dairy. Its name comes from the quantity of roses, grown on the lawn. The previous owners were A.E.Wilcox, Selah W, Roger Kelsey, Alfred Wright and Steven R. Everts.

**LEWELLYN - CHERRY HILL FARM** -This fine farm contained one hundred and eighteen acres on the Town Line Road, two and one half miles from Bergen, three and one-half miles from Byron. There were twelve acres of timber land, the rest being used for raising stock, hay and grain. Some corn, beans and potatoes were also grown there. The houses and barns were very fine. Each with its own well, operated by a windmill. Lewis Lewellyn settled there in 1820, L. Lewellyn, who died in 1898, succeeded him.

**WOOD - GOLDEN GRAIN FARMS** was owned by Frank D. Wood. Sixty rods west of the Post office address, in the Bergen village. This farm was under major cultivation in 1904. It was located in the Town of Bergen, twenty-two acres being in the Village of Bergen. The buildings consisted of a handsome residence and commodious barns and farm buildings located on Railroad and Buffalo Streets. It was in every sense a grain farm. Its level fields were covered with grain, producing a golden in hue at the harvest time, which gave rise to the name of Golden Grain Farm. In 1871 F.B Gifford then owners, sold a seventy five acre tract to William Fitzgerald. This piece of property was sold five times during this period till 1898. It was then sold continuously throughout the next four years to twelve different families. Lastly owned by Frank D. Wood on April 11, 1902. The farm had good wells, and was well watered, which by windmill power was carried to the house and barns.

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Bergen Community Christmas Concert  
Saturday, December 18, 2010  
6:00 PM  
Bergen First Presbyterian Church  
38 Lake Ave, Bergen, NY



Join us for an evening of Christmas music performed by members of the community. Young and old are welcome to attend. Cookies and cocoa to follow.  
Any questions about attending or performing? Contact Jocelyn Rebisz, 494-6031.

**Bergen Historical Society**

In 1996 the Bergen Historical Society (BHS) chose to endeavor to save the Hartford Livery from destruction. The Historian at that time (Wanda McVean) and a committee appointed by the Town Board researched the cost and created a "Save the Barn" campaign. Eventually through donations from residents, Historical Society members, Memorial gifts (Wanda McVean, Russ Drews and Ruth MacConnell) and matching funds from the Town of Bergen we were able to renew the structural integrity, purchase and install siding, paint, install new electric service, add a sidewalk and a flag pole. We more recently, received a \$5,000 NYS Grant through Senator Mary Lou Rath's efforts to add lighting, and a \$10,000 Grant from Waste Management Corp. to repair the roof. This project enabled the Town to have a new and centrally located place for the Historian to display many of the artifacts and history related to the Town of Bergen. We certainly appreciate the response from the residents of Bergen and supporters of the BHS for making this project a success. The goal of the BHS has always been to preserve, present and at times purchase artifacts and historical items from the community for the Town of Bergen. We have few members and very limited funds to accomplish these goals.

The BHS at the Bergen Park Festival event took a survey that showed enormous support for the purchase of a carriage manufactured in Bergen in the mid 1850's by Will Davy. The carriage was stored in Ralph Gillette's barn and purchased by a resident of Brockport at auction and restored. It is rare that an artifact in this condition is offered to the BHS. We have gone way out on limb and made the purchase. We feel it will be a once in a lifetime addition to the historical properties of Bergen.

**NOW** comes your part. The BHS having limited funds is asking for donation from our members, friends and the residents of Bergen. We are a 501-C3 organization and all contributions will be tax deductible. We pray that in these very difficult economic times you may find it in your heart to make our endeavor a success. Please know how appreciative we are and if we exceed the purchase price we will place the excess in a fund that the Historian may use to purchase additional items for the Town as they become available. Make checks payable to: Bergen Historical Society, P.O. Box 281, Bergen, NY 14416



The BHS has programs throughout the year that are interesting and open to the public. Please come down and see for yourself. We are always looking for new members!!!!

*Carriage Committee*

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**Friends, Neighbors and Fellow Bergen Citizens,**



Over the years you may have read in previous newsletters that the Fire Department was in need of volunteers. This is in fact another of those requests, but it may very well turn out to be the last. If you live in the Village, you may have noticed the siren going off multiple times, even more so during the day when everyone is at work. Those additional sirens are calls for "more manpower"... the problem is, there is no more manpower to alert when there is an emergency in our small town. The pressures of today's society have us all going in a million different directions, meetings here, meetings there, take the kids to soccer, pick the kids up from wrestling, night classes, a second job, necessary rest..... All of those factors have depleted the pool of volunteers, who take the time out of their daily routine, to perform one of the most selfless acts there is: To help their fellow citizens in their greatest time of need, often times at some risk to their own well being and usually at a time not so convenient for ourselves.

The Bergen Fire Dept. Rescue Squad is down to a handful of individuals who are still willing and able to perform this service. The number is small (less than ten) and getting smaller every year. The Fire Department will soon be faced with the very, very, real possibility of discontinuing ambulance service within our community. The St. Paul Fire Dept. in Rochester made their last ambulance run on December 7<sup>th</sup> last week for this very reason. Unless, you our fellow citizens, help us increase our membership back to the size needed to keep our ambulance rolling, we may very well be next. The alternative is for a commercial ambulance to be dispatched from the City of Batavia, and we all know the length of time it takes to drive from Batavia, even with red lights and a siren. Add bad weather to the equation, and you have an unacceptable delay in care in any life threatening situation.

**We NEED YOUR HELP:** The commitment is huge, the pay is non-existent, the hours can be draining and the annual training is free, but often exhaustive. The reward however, is sometimes laying your head down at night, knowing, without a doubt, that you made a difference between someone dying, or living another day. If that is too harsh of an example for you, serving on the ambulance may not be for you. If it makes you pause and think "I might be able to help".... Please call us. We need drivers and people willing to train and become New York State certified EMT's..... For more Information please call Rescue Chief Barry Miller at 330 -0125, Lieutenant Melodie Kolmetz at 752-2092 or leave a message at the Fire Hall 494-2100. Thanks for your consideration.....We look forward to hearing from you.

Happy Holidays!! During your holiday rush of activities don't forget to enjoy the many holiday books and movies available at your Library! We have quick cooking books for meals on the go! Make a family tradition by baking cookies from our many cookbooks! Stop by when the children are on vacation for boredom buster books and craft books to inspire their imaginations. Don't forget your audio books for the long car rides to Grandma's house!! Search our website at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) and check out happenings and our on-line catalog or join us on Facebook!

Holiday hours are as follows: December 21<sup>st</sup> 10-12 and 2-8 December 28<sup>th</sup> 10-12 & 2-8

December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1-8

December 29<sup>th</sup> 1-8

December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2-8

December 30<sup>th</sup> 2-8

December 24<sup>th</sup> 10-3

December 31<sup>st</sup> 10-3



**Closed December 25<sup>th</sup> –Merry Christmas! January 1<sup>st</sup> -Happy New Year!**

Book discussion for December will be on the Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We are reading The Postmistress by Sarah Blake. Come January 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the book Stones into Schools by Greg Mortenson. In February, we will be discussing Mudbound by Hillary Jordan. If you're interested in joining, stop by to pick up a copy or log on to the catalog at [byronbergenpubliclibrary.org](http://byronbergenpubliclibrary.org) to place your request.

Pre-school story time is at 10:30am on Fridays until December 17<sup>th</sup>!!! If you are 3-5 years old or are home schooled, join us for a story, related craft and a snack!! January 14<sup>th</sup> starts our Winter Time Fun story time. Home schooled children are welcome. Registration is recommended.

Join us for Craft Day! Be there on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30. Come make a gift to give to someone special! Registration is recommended so we have enough supplies!

Want something fun to do during Winter Break? We will be having a *Movie Day at the Library!* Join us on December 30<sup>th</sup> to see "**Despicable Me**" at 2:30 pm and "**The Legends of the Guardians – Owls of Ga'hoole**" on the Big Screen at 6:30 pm! Wii games to play during intermission with food and lots of popcorn too! No registration required!

Join us for Primetime Story time January 19<sup>th</sup>, February 16<sup>th</sup>, and March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Come ready for an evening story, craft and snack. No Registration required.

Do you like Thomas the Tank? We have a special day here at the Library to explore, listen and create with Thomas! Join us on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am for a morning with Thomas and Friends. Bring you conductor hat and have some fun!! No registration necessary!

What would happen if everyone read the same book??? Well, if you read our A Tale for Three Counties book you will find out!! A Tale for Three Counties book for 2011 will be Mudbound by Hillary Jordan. The author will visit in our area March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Memorial Library in Batavia at 7pm. Log on to [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) and reserve your copy now.

Our community wide book discussion will be held on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Join us as we explore the book and its characters!! Share your views of the book with your neighbors and friends. Refreshment served. No registration needed.

Save the date of March 23<sup>rd</sup> for our annual preschool concert! Join our smaller patrons at the Bergen First Presbyterian at 10am for music, and fun with Glenn Colton! With audience participation and humor, Glenn guarantees that you'll want more! No Registration required! Just come join the fun!

Have you read the newest bestsellers? We have Clive Cussler's Crescent Moon, David Baldacci's Hell's Corner, Stephan King's Full Dark, No Stars, James Patterson's Cross Fire and many many more! Stop by the Library to get your copy or reserve your copy on-line at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org)! Getting a new E-Reader for Christmas? Check out our catalog for downloadble e-books free with a valid Nioga Library card. New children's books arrive weekly! New DVD's monthly! Check out a Playaways too!

(Continued)

We are a fully Automated Library!! Stop in and get a new Library card that will open up the whole NIOGA system for ordering books from the comfort of your home!! There are databases; Librarian 24/7, Tumbling Talking Books, NOVEL list, downloadable books, e-books, and much more are available to you!! Just go to [www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org) and you're on your way!

The Library has Roadrunner Internet service available. We also have a variety of games for younger children to play and learn on the computer!!! The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost. Interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system at our catalog [www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org). If you can't find it, please ask! Stop in soon! For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

**Wanted:** Applicants for the Board of Trustees of the Byron-Bergen Public Library. This appointed position is a five year term and the only requirements are: 1. to love what the library does and can do in our community, 2. to have a willingness to work on projects that promote the library and 3. be able to attend a meeting at 6:30pm on the first Monday of the month. We are especially interested in anyone with an accounting background or interest in financials. If this sounds like you, please send a letter of interest to the Town of Bergen P.O. Box 249. We look forward to meeting you!

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### Highways & Byways by *David Roggow*

With winter here, I would like to remind everyone to again remember that winter driving requires additional time, planning, preparation and most importantly, at times reduced speeds to allow for increased stopping distances.



This winter, as in the past, we will strive to continue to provide the same level of the safest possible roadways at all times, within reason and budget constraints. Please be reminded that during a "normal" snow event, it will take plow trucks 2 ½ to 3 hours to complete one pass on all roads. As such, it is very possible that everyone will encounter less than pleasant driving conditions at times. Late evenings and early mornings, with very light traffic volumes, will receive lower levels of service. Every attempt will be made to maintain open and passable roadways, both for normal and emergency traffic. At times, lanes may narrow and accumulate snow. The Town is responsible for snow and ice removal on all Town and County roadways in Bergen as well as some State routes.

As always, please have a safe and enjoyable winter and don't hesitate to call (494-1362) if I may be of service regarding highway concerns. "Normal" hours are 7:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday with an answering machine on at all times to take your call. I will return your call as soon as possible.

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### Transfer Station/Recycling News

The Town Board has made some increases to the Construction and Demolition fees beginning January 1, 2011, fee schedules sheets will be available at the Town Clerk's office and from the Transfer Station attendants.

**Holiday Hours:** Transfer Station will be closed Saturday December 25th and January 1st and will be open Sunday December 26, 2010 and January 2, 2011 with shortened hours 9 am – 1 pm.

**Summer Hours:** As a test the Transfer Station will be open Wednesdays Evenings 6 – 8 pm beginning July 6, 2011 through August 31, 2011.



This is the last Newsletter being mailed unless you sign up for it

The Town of Bergen Newsletter is going green! The newsletter is currently available on the Town website [bergenny.org](http://bergenny.org) if you would still like the newsletter mailed or emailed to you please fill out the information below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_



Please return to: **Bergen Town Clerk**  
**P.O. Box 249**  
**Bergen, NY 14416**

Or email: [bergenclerk@bergenny.org](mailto:bergenclerk@bergenny.org)

**2011 – 2012 Bergen Directory**

The Bergen Business & Civic Association is currently working on the 2011 – 2012 Bergen Directory. If you would like to make any changes to your listing or include a cell phone number please contact Michele Smith at 494-1121 Ext. 21

**BERGEN NEWSLETTER**  
**10 HUNTER STREET**  
**BERGEN, NY 14416**  
**bergenny.org**

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