



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2013

Celebrating 200 Years 1812-2013

From the Desk of Town Supervisor **Donald Cunningham**

Town News ...

On April 2nd 2013 the Town officially turned 200! A birthday celebration was organized by the Bergen Business & Civic Association on April 13th with an event at the site of the towns origins located on the grounds of Mount Rest Cemetery. Approximately 150 residents braved the wind and cold to attend the celebration, hear speeches and proclamations, musical presentations, and enjoy complimentary cake and beverages. It was a great day that concluded with an aerial photo of everyone in attendance. Thanks go out to the BBCA and all the volunteers involved with organizing this event.

The Celebration Continues... The Town's Bicentennial will also be the feature focus of this year's Bergen Park Days coming up in June. A special two day event is being organized and details are included in this newsletter (*page 6*). **Don't miss it!**

Peachey Road Water District Update

All quality & pressure tests have been approved for the water main and connections to residents have begun. Connections started at the village line and will run north from there. Restoration efforts will follow and the project remains on schedule for substantial completion by July 31st with final close out on Sept. 29th. **Monroe County Water Authority requests that District residents should maintain current water system until connected & a welcome letter from MCWA is received.**

Projects for 2013

The new roof for the Historians Office at 15 South Lake was completed in mid May and is a great accomplishment. A fantastic job was performed by Loewke Construction who took advantage of a good weather streak to promptly finish the project. Thanks to Tim & Mike for expeditious service.

Next the town will incorporate alarm systems at the same address to maximize protection of the historical property it contains. We will also be reviewing and planning for improved security systems at the Town Hall, but this item may need to be budgeted in the future.

On May 8th, Councilman Joe Nenni and I were assisted by a group of volunteers from Target for the annual Genesee County Day of Caring event. We utilized the time and labor resources to do general spring clean-up of grounds to include weeding, mulching, top soil repairs, and flower planting. The Target crew helped us accomplish everything scheduled, and special thanks goes to our Highway Department and John Murray for their assistance as well. It's always nice to take advantage of this county wide event to clean up the grounds for the summer.

The Village Board hosted a Community Action Day on May 18th and similar to what we accomplish on the Day of Caring, they invite community members to participate in decorating the village flower beds and flower boxes in a beautification effort. They kicked off the day with a dedication and planting of a Liberty Elm tree in Hickory Park. Kids' activities were organized and lunch was served at the conclusion. Town Board members Joe Nenni and Brian Stone joined me to help with planting & mulching. Thanks to the Village Board for organizing this day and the DPW members that worked hard to prepare and bring it all together. The Village is looking great for the Memorial Day weekend and upcoming Park Days.

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West Shore Linear Trail Abuse

The Town Board is carefully reviewing the use of the West Shore Linear Trail. For years the former rail bed has been a source of enjoyment for walkers, bicyclers, recreational vehicles (ATV's & snowmobiles). As other sections of this trail and many other trails within the area have recently restricted use, our trail has become a hot bed for activity. Unfortunately, with many users hauling in ATV's & dirt bikes from out of town abuses have skyrocketed. The Town Board has received numerous complaints and is determining the appropriate action to take. In the mean time we ask residents in the area to report any illegal activity immediately to either the Sheriff's office or the NYS Troopers. We don't want to see the trail closed down to local users for the abuses of out of town users and will diligently seek action to prevent this from happening.

Any motorized vehicles using the trail should...

- Obey all laws governing the equipment being operated.
- Not Trespass on private property along the trail
- Not use excessive speed on the trail
- Exercise courtesy and caution to walkers, bikers, and other trail users.
- Minimize noise along the trail



From the Desk of County Legislator *Robert Bausch*

In the February newsletter, I commented on the passage of the NYS SAFE Act, the numerous problems it was causing county governments and the effect it is having on Genesee County residents. The issues discussed have not disappeared and have only worsened as enactment has proceeded. Regardless of your position on gun ownership, it is bad legislation if for no other reason than the enactment process. Unfortunately, that is only the first of many such actions the state has taken this year that is having or will have a significant impact on Genesee County residents. Efforts to address, and hopefully prevent, these proposals from being enacted are consuming a significant amount of time.



The Governor proposed an early voting program that will be very expensive for counties and local governments that bear the expense for elections. No NYS resident wants to prevent other residents from voting. But to address this issue, NYS has absentee ballots available for those that cannot vote on primary or general election day. The process is efficient and relatively inexpensive. Across the state, counties and local governments have passed resolutions opposed to this new process because of the unreasonable increase in cost.

The NYS Department of Transportation has prepared draft regulation that would restrict access to state highways for parades and other civic events. There has been significant opposition expressed to these new regulations by local governments and organizers of local festivals, marathons and numerous other events. (Even Santa Claus coming to town would be difficult if closing any part of a state highway would be required for more than ten minutes.) Procedures already exist to accommodate these events with little disruption to traffic and limited liability to the state.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is proposing a new SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) process for the use of equipment on acreage greater than 5 areas that would require an application be filed prior to using equipment. At this time, there is limited information available on this proposed regulation. Like many other changes proposed by the state, obtaining the required background information in order to comment is difficult, if not almost impossible.

The issue on all of these laws and regulations is the effect they will have on the quality of life in NYS, particularly upstate, and the cost. That is why counties and local governments across the state are working in opposition to these ongoing attempts to infringe on our lifestyle.

Library News *by Nancy Bailey*

Greetings from the Byron-Bergen Public Library- check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org! On our website you can find out what is happening at the Library, see photos of events, and check up on your Library account. The Library offers Freegal downloadable music, downloadable books ~audio and e-books as well as databases available to use with a valid Library card.

There have been a lot of changes and more to come in the Library! With the support of the Town of Bergen Board of Trustees and NY State grant money, we have put in a doorway from the Library into the meeting room former court room.

With private donations from our Board of Trustee's fundraising events, we have updated shelving in the Tally Almquist History room, painted the Library with help from various volunteer groups, and updated our patron computers with both new hardware and software. Our Library staff computer has been updated also. Coming in the near future, we will be releasing new Library cards with our new logo created by Hannes Widrig, stackable library chairs, and window treatments. Thank you all for your support. Stop in soon to check out the new look!

The Book discussion group will be meeting on June 13th at 7pm. We enjoy lively conversation about the book and refreshments too! Stop by the library to reserve your copy of our current book Charms of the Easy Life by Kay Gibbons or reserve your copy by going on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org.

Friends of the Library book sale will start June 4th to June 7th during regular Library hours and will be at the Bergen Park Festival on June 8th! There are audio books, movies, children's books and many bestselling authors! Help support the Friends of the Library!!! Join today!! Remember - The Library will be closed the day of Bergen Park Festival.

The Library will be hosting Kelly's Hero's Marching Band on June 8th. Join us at for their performance during the parade at 12 noon and also a concert after the parade. *This free program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York Legislature.* The Library will be closed June 8th so you can enjoy the Festival! See you there!

We are looking for responsible children ages 11 years old and older to help volunteer during the summer reading program. Stop by to pick up an application and have it to us by June 18th!!! You can win prizes for volunteering and get a first look at all the new books and DVDs!!! You may volunteer by yourself or with a friend.

Friends of the Library are pleased to announce the 5th Annual Claus Memorial Award for summer readers completing grades 4th, 5th, and 6th. After you join the summer reading program, write a paragraph or two on one of the books that you have read and enjoyed. Submit to the Library with the official form by August 20th for a chance to win!! First prize, \$50 cash and your name on a plaque in the Library and two honorable mentions will be awarded cash prizes of \$25 each. Stop by the Library to pick up a form! Look at our website www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org for more information and examples of past essay winners.

Summer session for preschool story time starts Friday July 12th at 10:30am. Come for stories, crafts and snacks too! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library. Join the fun this summer with your young children!!! There's magic in every book!

The American Red Cross Babysitting class will be offered at the Library on July 8th from 9:30-2:30. You must be at least 11 years old to attend. Call or stop by before June 28th to register. The cost is \$45 and includes a book. Bring a drink and a snack. A pizza lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Library. Sign up soon- Space is limited.

Join us at the Byron Heritage Fest on July 27th for music and fun! The Library will be hosting along with Byron Park Committee the group Savage Cabbage at 4:30pm. *This program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York Legislature.* This rock band will kick off dancing fun at the Festival! There will be Fireworks too!

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This summer our reading program is **DIG INTO READING!** By stopping in to borrow a book, a good movie, or an audio book you can explore! **Our Kick off program will be June 18th at 2pm with Defiant Monkey's Improve show!** The summer reading program is set up for children (3 years old and up) to read and win prizes! Having your children read in the summer will help keep up their reading skills for school in the fall. You can sign up anytime during the summer reading program but the earlier you sign up the more prizes you win! Don't miss out on the summer fun:

- June 26th - Explore Steele Drums with Ted Canning at 7pm
- June 27th-Dig into Stories with Glories Stories at 7pm
- July 2nd- Movie Night-*Escape from Planet Earth*- on the Big Screen at 6pm
- July 5th-- Craft 2go Day- come between 11-2 pm
- July 9th – Dig into Native Americans with Mr. Tallman at 4pm
- July 10th – Dig into Science with Mr. Merritt at 4pm
- July 16th-- Enchanted Kingdom Puppet show at 7pm
- July 18th--- Dig into Gardening at 7pm
- July 19th – Dino Dig Story time at 10:30am
- July 24th – Digging for Gold Story time at 7pm
- July 25th – Dig into more science with Mr. Merritt at 4pm
- July 30th – Who's Digging Story time at 7pm
- August 1st – Exploring Dinosaurs at 7pm
- August 7th – Movie Night on the big screen at 6:30pm
- August 8th- - African Adventure with Mr. Tallman at 4pm
- August 9th – Buried Treasure Story time at 10:30am
- August 13th – Ending program with Charlie and Checkers at 7pm



For more information on all programs call or stop by the Library!

Our ending summer reading program will be Charlie and Checkers on August 13th at 7pm. Come celebrate your reading success- enjoy the fun with an ice cream sundae treat! No registration required to join the fun!!

Is your child staying home alone while you are at work? The Library is offering a Home Alone Safety workshop on August 20th from 6pm-8pm. This National Safety Council workshop will prepare your child for situations that can occur when they stay home alone. The cost is only \$20. Class size is limited so stop by soon to sign up no later than August 14th!

Come check out our newest books! If they are not on the shelf, check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org to reserve your copy! We have been adding to our audio, DVD and music collection as well. We also have a great selection of children's audio books that are great to listen to while you are driving to your vacation destination! For more information on our services or programs, please call the library at 494-1120.

Historian News by Thomas Tietel

Well, it's hard to believe that we are almost at the half way point for 2013! Our town is officially 200 years old, Park Festival is right around the corner, and the Harford Barn & Livery Museum exhibits are finally completed for 2013! I wish to thank the Byron Bergen 4th grade classes for making the museum's transformation very well worth it! Both students and teachers alike were very excited to be the first to see exhibits depicting Fisher's Pharmacy, Davy Carriage Works, Edgerton General Store, T.H. Gilbert Blacksmith Shop, Housel Savings & Loan and our yearly rotating exhibit depicting pioneer school days. The "wow factor" amongst the students has made it all worth it! The museum will hold its re-grand opening on Saturday June 8th at 10:30am with a ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication to Richard (Dick) Partridge for his many years of dedicated service to the Historian's office. A tribute to Wanda MacVean will also be held by her son John. We look forward to a visit from you! Lastly, I wish to thank all that have come to my aid with making the museum transformation possible. It came down to the "wire", but we got it done and more than just a museum, it signifies the pride along with the "helping your fellow man" attitude that makes our town great and that I'm proud to call home! As always, the Historian's office is located at 15 S. Lake Ave and if you have any questions or need assistance in research, call me at 494-0080 and I will be happy to assist you.

THE 24th ANNUAL BERGEN PARK FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2013

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2013

EVENTS SCHEDULE

HAPPY 200th BIRTHDAY TOWN OF BERGEN

FRIDAY – JUNE 7th 6-10pm



Fun Filled entertaining cover
band!

5pm until sold out Fish Fry sponsored by the Masonic Temple \$8.00

with Chef Jim MacConnell and the Bergen Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

All Proceeds to benefit our Parks

Food Vendors

Remote Control Car Demo

SATURDAY – JUNE 8th

11:00 am Car Cruise In – Dedicated to Doug Susat - Enjoy the cars until 3:00pm

Craft Vendors

Book Sale---Byron-Bergen Public Library

Food Vendors – all day and evening

Bounce House

Pony Rides

Blinko

BOSSY BINGO IS BACK!!!! Sponsored by the **Bergen Grange**

12:00 noon -Parade down Main St.

Parade Marshals – Bergen Town Board

1:00 pm Wegmans Zoomobile (this is not a petting zoo)

Kelly's Heros - sponsored by



go Art!

Genesee Country Museum “19th Century Games”

3:00 pm *Bergen Idol Contest* - Sponsored by Triple-O Mechanical

DJ – Chris Scibani

4:00pm- Mason's Chicken B'BQue –Featuring Chef Dick Sands and Friends
All Proceeds to benefit our Parks
\$8.50 300 Tickets Printed
Serving 4:00pm – 5:30pm

POP SHOW BAND – 6-10pm

Fun entertainment for the whole Family!



FIREWORKS AT 10PM



*This day is sponsored by the **Bergen Business and Civic Association***

Our sincerest thank you to all of the volunteers that make it so special!

The Bergen Park Festival continues as an event to bring
our community together with any profits going back
to Village & Town Parks

**Please do your animals and the other guests a favor,
and leave your pets home. Thank you.**



Commemorative
t-shirts available
for \$10 & \$12 will
be available at
the main tent

Schedule is subject to change.



HARFORD BARN GRAND RE-OPENING

New exhibits by

Town Historian Tom Tiefel

Open to the public

10:30 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 3:00

Behind Library

Dog License News: I hate to “hound” you, but if your dog’s license renewal is due or past due, please take care of it so we don’t have to send you a reminder notice or eventually a court appearance ticket. If there is a problem getting an appointment for a rabies vaccination, etc., please call me 494-1121 x 21. I have an answering machine so you can call anytime day or night.

ANTI-RABIES CLINICS: Dog, Cat and Ferret Vaccinations are free to Genesee County residents. A \$5.00 voluntary donation per dog, cat or ferret, is requested to offset expenses. Non-County residents must pay a mandatory \$5.00 fee for each dog, cat and ferret immunized. Each animal must be accompanied by someone who can control it.

August 15th – Genesee County Fairgrounds 5031 E. Main St., Batavia 4:00 – 7:00 pm



Office Closing

June 8th – Park Festival

July 4th & 5th – Independence Day



Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00

Saturday 9:00 am - noon

Closed on Thursday

Assessment News by *Anne Sapienza*

STAR Registration Program Coming Soon

Many of you have heard on the news that everyone will have to re-register for the STAR program. That is partially true in that STAR Basic folks will have to re-register, not STAR Enhanced (over 64).. Homeowners will have to register by March 1, 2014 via the internet. We will all receive a letter in the mail from New York State Department of Taxation and Finance telling us how to do this.

The reason for the re-registration is that there were problems with fraud and misrepresentation. The penalties also have changed.

- Penalties for intentionally providing misinformation to an assessor will increase from \$100 to as much as \$2500.
- The number of years for which a taxpayer must repay inappropriate STAR benefits will increase from three to as many as six.
- Taxpayers whose STAR exemption is revoked will be unable to receive the exemption for six years after revocation.
- An additional \$500 processing fee will be imposed whenever an inappropriate exemption granted after April 1, 2013 is revoked.

For more information call (518) 457-2036

This information was provided by the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance





Summer Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 pm July 10th- August 28th



The Mill Seat Open House & Information Fair is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2013 from 3 – 7 PM

2013 – 2014 Bergen Directory

The Bergen Business & Civic Association 2013 – 2014 is available for \$5 at: Bergen Town Hall, Village of Bergen Office, Sullivan Agency, Gillam-Grant Community Center, Ralph & Rosie's, Carol's Coiffures, Rose Garden & Park Festival.

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