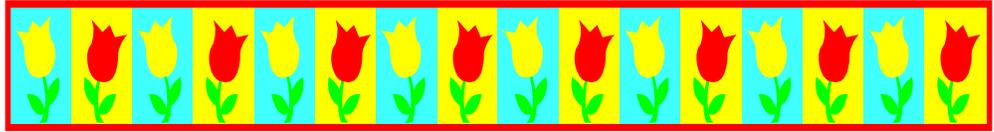




# TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2011



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

If you're like me you've been eagerly awaiting that convincing moment of spring's official arrival. Right now the signs are there, with diminishing snow piles, daylight savings time, and the general dirty, muddy, scenery that prefaces the blooming flowers and budding trees. Being witness to more folks out walking, running, and starting yard work brings hope that we are done battling the white stuff, but I'm sure the highway department hasn't removed the plows just yet. Regardless, with the news of world events, and the tragedy in Japan we can consider ourselves very fortunate despite our woefully long winter.

### News for 2011...

At our Organizational Meeting in January we made selection for appointed positions and recognized two committees. The Parks & Recreation Committee is chaired by Councilman Joe Nenni, serving with Councilman Hugh McCartney, they will work with Peggy Swapceinski from the Gillam Grant and Jeff Maurer on rules, regulations, and future plans at Robins Brook Park.

The second committee is the Buildings Committee chaired by Councilman Barry Miller, he is working with Councilman Nenni and Anne Sapienza to do research and make recommendations on facility needs.

The extra time and effort being put in by these individuals is very helpful and appreciated.

We also welcome our newest member to the board, Brian Stone of Swamp road was appointed to take over the vacancy left by Rachael Millspaugh. We were very pleased by the number of individuals interested in this position. Even with varied backgrounds and qualifications all proved to be worthy candidates. Brian's knowledge of current town events and fitting responses through the interview process helped make him a unanimous choice by the board. We welcome him to this position and thank Paul Cooper, Belinda Grant, and Andrew Fink for their interest in serving the town.

### Water Updates...

The water district to service the North Lake and Peachey Road area has been making progress with engineering and financing preparations. Field work was recently conducted, the application to Rural Development for funding is being completed, and we expect the bidding process to begin later this spring.

In other areas of the town some town residents have received a survey to complete regarding eligibility for water funding and grants programs. The town board elected to have this study conducted because of the ongoing interest for public water throughout the town. Completing the survey simply helps determine if these areas might be eligible for any special financing or funding assistance based on the average income of residents, but please don't let this give a false sense that public water may be coming to your home soon. The biggest challenge remains the low density of residents and the subsequent cost per user; however, we feel it's necessary to constantly monitor

the changing dynamics in funding scenarios, as well as water development throughout the surrounding areas of Bergen to determine when there may be opportunity for presenting a district to areas that have been requesting it.

### **Budget, Buildings & Grounds...**

With the books for 2010 being closed out and working through our 2011 fiscal year the town will face similar financial challenges as everyone else. Escalating fuel, utility, and benefit costs will continue to have an unpredictable affect on our expenses and some serious decisions for building maintenance and use must also take place this year. The library building at 13 South Lake Ave. will get some long overdue upgrades with exterior doors and windows. This past winter season took an exceptional toll on their condition and the needed repairs must be done this year to avert bigger problems. The historian has relocated to the adjacent property and is functioning well within the new space but desperately needs some lighting improvements. The old Wilcox building located at 17 South Lake has been vacated and the Buildings Committee will be determining a recommendation for the future of that building.

The one source of revenue that helps with town expenses and control property taxes is the sales tax revenue provided by the county. I was pleased to hear that sales tax amounts for the first quarter are expected to be greater than projected, and I can't stress enough the benefit we see when we make our purchases with the county. It remains one way we can help ourselves.

### **Parks & Recreation...**

The town has some great resources for parks and recreation that everyone should enjoy. The linear park along the old West Shore rail bed is a great location for bike riding, walking, and access to the Drews Nature Center. Robins Brook Park continues to develop into the hub for summertime youth recreation or grounds to visit for an aerobic walk. Bergen also has one of the most unique outdoor resources in the country with the Bergen Swamp. Tours are available and I suggest if you haven't been or want more information to check the website at <http://www.bergenswamp.org>

### **Other Topics...**

Bergen's history remains preserved by the efforts of the Town Historian's office and the Historical Society. We've been very blessed to have Peggy Denton serve as the Town Historian for many years along with the volunteer efforts of the Historical Society membership and the diligent work of Dick Partridge. In fact, Dick spends so much time chronicling and cataloging documents, books, articles and just about anything he gets his hands on related to Bergen, that you would really think it's his full time job, but Dick is suppose to be retired. Efforts like this that go on day to day behind the scenes keep pieces being placed into the history puzzle of Bergen. This work is ongoing and dealing with larger, heavier articles has become a greater challenge, so the Historian has requested more help. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone interested in the town's history that might be able to assist the department with these needs and general organizing. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Town Historians Office or the Historical Society.

**Town Positions available:** There are Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals alternate positions available, if you are interested send a letter of interest to the Bergen Town Clerk's Office P. O. Box 249 Bergen, NY 14416. The Planning Board meets the last Thursday of the month and the Zoning Board of Appeals meets the third Thursday of the month as needed.



If you have been following the state and local news, you are well aware of the financial plight of New York State and how the new governor and the state legislature propose to close the projected \$10,000,000,000 (yes billion) budget gap. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February, I was in Albany to attend the New York State Association of Counties annual meeting where this was “the” topic. The counties are extremely concerned that whatever the state decides will not have a detrimental effect on county finances.

So far the only answer provided by state representatives is they will be passing a “property tax cap” for local governments, including school districts, and that will solve the problem. If only it was that simple. The source of the problem for counties is unfunded state mandates. If a property tax cap is instituted but the state continues to require the counties to deliver unfunded mandated services, what will be the source of the funds? The current answer from state leaders is that they will pass the tax cap law and address the unfunded mandates later and in the mean time counties should take the required funding from other county services such as police and parks.

By far the largest unfunded mandate is Medicaid. Currently the combined NYS and counties cost for Medicaid exceed similar cost in California and Texas combined. In Genesee County in excess of 80% property tax receipts are used to fund Medicaid (80% is actually good, in many counties it is in excess of 100%). Temporary Assistance is another costly program that had a state wide average cost increase of 9.3% last year. There was only one county where the cost of this program decreased and that was Genesee.

To address these issues, the Association of Counties has develop a list of 9 medicaid mandated items and 198 other mandates that should be addressed before a property tax cap can be considered. State representatives need to understand that without mandate relief a property tax cap is a road to financial disaster.

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## *Easter Egg Hunt April 16th at 1:00 PM*

*The Bergen Business & Civic Association sponsors this annual event at the Hickory Park in the Village of Bergen.*

*The BBCA would like to thank the Madziarz family who graciously runs the event every year.*



Peggy Denton – Town Historian

## *Antiques- Childhood Treasures*



Do you remember the story “Goldilocks and Three Bears”? This story has been told to children and grand children for many years. Hopefully this tradition will continue to be a childhood favorite for generations to come. But did you know that Goldilocks did not become a part of the story until fifty years after the first version was written? The original was in verse form. There was no little girl at all in the first version, and the female in this narrative was a witch. The all male bears were still waiting for their milk to cool, not porridge.

This first version was written by Eleanor Mure in 1831. Many variations followed until a man named Joseph Cundall wrote about a little girl called “Silverhair” in 1850. Goldenhair, Goldenlocks, evolved to be known as Goldilocks. The most popular version sold was published by McLoughlin in 1888. What did not change was that she continued to wander off into the woods. Kids will be kids!

Artists and Illustrators contributed to the many future books. . The selling price of the stories and toys depended on there popularity and the artistry. There were Three Bears toys, Puzzles, Cut Out books, Stuffed bears and a lithographed mechanical bank made in Japan in 1950 - sold for \$150.00. Some books were published in foreign languages.

Oddly enough, finding other Three Bears items is not easy. One would think with such a popular story they would be plentiful, but they are not! Collectors are always looking for this well known story and its toys. Do you have one in your house? The online prices are ranging from \$8.00 to \$150.00 for the “Three Bears, stuffed w/removable clothes.

Many toys are collector items so treasure your child’s toys and make them a part of history for generations to come. “How many times have you said, I wish I had kept my childhood toys”.... I know I have!

We would welcome them as a part of the Bergen museum collection if storing them for you is impossible.

Information researched from “Toy Box Treasures”– Kerri Davis-10/10

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**Coming Soon:** Watch for publicity on the Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations and the Bergen 1850 Carriage. The Historical office has moved into Ruth Chapel-Drew’s former home at 15 S. Lake Avenue. The Historian will be Available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 12:30 – 4:00 pm at 494-0080. Museums will be open in the warmer months. Think Spring! See you at the Bergen Historical meetings starting April 7, 2011.



**Bergen Historical Society Theresa Alexander, President**

The Bergen Historical Society met on February 2nd, at 2:00 at the Byron-Bergen Public Library, we have been having our meetings in the afternoon, which seems to be working out for our members. Eventually we may go back to our evening schedule.

In early December the Bergen Historical Society, moved into Ruth Chapel Drew's former home at 15 S. Lake Ave., with the co-operation of many, everything was transferred. This was an enormous undertaking, and many thanks go out to Richard Partridge, Peggy Denton, John Murray, Councilman Joe Nenni and others for his move. After our meeting everyone went over and toured the building. It is shaping up nicely.

We have had a wonderful outpouring of generosity to our carriage fund. A letter of intent was sent to Don, the owner, and delivery will be approximately the end of May.

In the future, we are hoping for some fund raising ideas for the society. New ideas were discussed and voted on.

We thank Nancy Charcholla for her wonderful secretarial skills, she did a great job. We thank Bev Wooton for taking over the position for as long as needed.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 7th at 2:00 at the Library.

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FREE

## HUNTER EDUCATION

FREE

### Godfrey's Pond

**Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Preregister in person: Barretts Batavia Marine & Sporting Good

411 W. Main St. Batavia

All new hunters/bow hunters/trappers must receive training before getting their first license. Students must attend all sessions, demonstrate proper attitude and safety, and pass the test. To find another course is this one is full call (585)226-2466 or 1-800-HUNT-ED2



## Library News *by Nancy Bailey*

Stay connected with your Library by checking us out at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) or friend us on Facebook! Lots of great programs coming up!!

We have New York tax forms available here! Stop in and follow the orange sign to pick up all your tax forms. You also can go to the website at [www.nystax.gov](http://www.nystax.gov) and go to forms to print from home. If you need Federal tax forms, they are available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or at the larger Libraries or Post Offices in Batavia and Brockport.

Library has preschool story time at 10:30am on Fridays until April 8<sup>th</sup>. Home school children are invited too! We enjoy some stories, a related craft and a snack! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library.

Book discussion group will be meetings will be held April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, and June 9<sup>th</sup>!! Come join this fun group and see what your neighbors are reading!!! We enjoy lively conversation about the book and refreshments to enjoy too! Stop by the library to reserve your copy of our current book.

Save the date of March 23<sup>rd</sup> for our annual pre-school concert! Join our smaller patrons at the Bergen First Presbyterian at 9:30am for music, and fun with Glenn Colton! With audience participation and humor, Glenn is a concert you won't want to miss! No Registration required! Just come join the fun!

Saturday Morning Cartoons on April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10-12!! Come see the movie TANGLED! Enjoy popcorn too! Everyone invited! No registration needed!

Easter Story time on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 with Mrs. Cosgrove and Mrs. Harrison! Our guest story readers will interact with finger plays, flannel board and much more! A fun craft and games to follow! Registration recommended!

National Library week is April 13-18<sup>th</sup> – Stop in and take out a book or two and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate!

Bring your Teddy or other favorite stuffed toy for story time on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. We will celebrate with stories, craft and snack!! Come join the fun!

### **Spring Break Happenings!! Yes we are open!!**

April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30—Craft Day!! Come make a fun craft to celebrate Easter coming!

No registration!

April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – Movie night! Join us for pizza before the showing at 6:30pm of The Chronicles of Narnia: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TRADER.

Would you like to volunteer during the summer at the Library? For children 11yrs and older, the Library is looking for help with the summer reading program. Stop by before June 18<sup>th</sup> to sign up! Chance to win prizes, help with programs, and place to meet new people! Come join by yourself or with a friend!!

Internet Basic for Job Seekers on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-12. This, hands on course will show you how to find and apply for employment opportunities, learn to find web sites that list employment opportunities and learn how to apply for jobs listed. This course is free and open to everyone! Space is limited so call or stop by the Library.

Have you read the newest bestsellers? We have Tic Tock by James Patterson, Alone by Lisa Gardner, Room by Emma Donoghue, Unbroken by Lisa Hillenbrand, and 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 downloadable e-books free with a valid Nioga Library card. New children's books arrive weekly! New DVD's monthly! Check out Playaways too!



From the Library Board--

We would like to thank all that attended the Red, White and Read Benefit for the library on February 5th. Despite the terrible weather, the turn-out was terrific!

Also many thanks goes to Brett Wilcox for opening his home and all of the behind the scenes people (valet attendants, wine pourers, Amy the chocolatier, and Wendy Didas for taking pictures) As well as Greg'ry's Bakery, Miller's Millworks, Sunnking Electronic Recycling, and Triple-O Mechanical Inc.



The event raised more than \$2,600  
CONGRATULATIONS....

April and Brian Stone, the winners of the Laptop computer donated by Sunnking Recycling.

And also a big thanks goes to Tom Sardou who won the 50/50 raffle. Tom graciously donated the \$65 prize to the Library.

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**Town Clerk News by *M.ichele Smith***

**Dog License News:** Please make sure your dogs are licensed and their rabies information is up to date.

**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.

April 7<sup>th</sup> – Pembroke Highway Department 1145 Main Rd. (Route 5), Pembroke, NY 4:00 – 7:00 PM

May 5<sup>th</sup> – Leroy Village Highway Department 58 North St., Leroy, NY 4:00 – 7:00 PM

**Office Closing**

April 22 & 23 -Easter

May 28 & 30 – Memorial Day



**Office Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00

Saturday 9:00 am - noon

Closed on Thursdays

# *SAVE THE DATE*

*Bergen Park Festival June 11, 2011 10Am – 10 Pm*

*Honoring the Bergen Fire Departments 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*Featuring: Parade, Car Show, Bergen Idol, Kids games, Bossy Bingo, Craft Vendors, Food Vendors, Music & Fireworks*

*Contact Miekele Smith 494-1121 Ext. 21 for more information*

## **2011 – 2012 Bergen Directory Coming Soon!**

The Bergen Business & Civic Association 2011 – 2012 Bergen Directory will be available May 7, 2011. We will be out going door to door selling the directory for \$5.00. It will also be available at: Bergen Town Hall, Village of Bergen Office, Sullivan Agency, Gillam-Grant Community Center, Ralph & Rosie's & Carol's Coiffures

**BERGEN NEWSLETTER  
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bergenny.org**