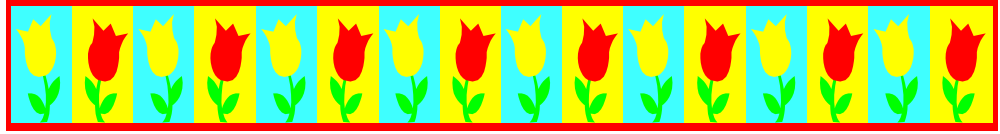




TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2012



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

With days occasionally reaching into the 60's and changing our clocks for more evening hour daylight, the official signs of spring are upon us. We've been spoiled by a mild winter which means our Highway Department experienced some budgetary savings in materials, fuel, and labor for the period. Hopefully the weather will continue to cooperate through March and usher in a pleasant spring & summer for everyone to begin enjoying the outdoors.

Host Community Agreement

In December of 2011 the Monroe County Legislature approved an amended & restated Host Community Agreement for the Millseat Landfill. The original agreement was ratified in 1989 with the officials from Town, Village, Fire Department, and School District. That agreement outlined specific benefits to the Village for replacement & expansion of the existing public water supply, along with revenue provisions to the Fire Department and School District for fire protection services and educational programming. At that time, resistance from the community left the Town little negotiating power yielding minimal direct benefits for the Town. Monroe County's intention to expand the landfill brought opportunity to revisit this agreement and in 2010 the County contacted us to present the restated agreement with up to date language. Since the restated agreement didn't include any change in benefits, we took the initiative to propose requests for amendment to include additional benefits for each entity. Ultimately we successfully negotiated revenue provisions for the Town, including some revenue sharing based on volume of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) collected at the site. The open dialog offered by Monroe County representatives, along with the support of Waste Management and the Citizens Advisory Board is appreciated and proved essential to the outcome.

Water Update

All easements have been secured and the Right-of-Way has been certified for the Peachey Road Water District. We received authorization to begin the bidding process from USDA Rural Development and bidding packages are prepared and available to interested contractors. We expect to award a contract at our meeting on March 27th.

Buildings & Grounds

We are looking forward to the continuation of good weather so that we may begin outdoor projects that are fare weather dependant. Those projects include the replacement of windows, siding, and doors at the Library. The historians office at 15 South Lake has some painting to be finished and asbestos testing is being conducted for 17 South Lake prior to being razed.

On May 16th we will be a host site for the United Way Day of Caring when a group of volunteers will participate in outdoor cleanup activities around Town properties including the East & North Bergen Cemeteries. This is always a great event with a lot of work getting accomplished in a short period of time. Anyone interesting in participating should contact the Genesee County United Way for details.

More Farewells

After 45 years of service to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Chairman Paul List decided it was time to give up his post at the end of last year. Paul took up this position in the mid 60's when he was appointed by my grandfather who served as Supervisor at the time. The list of zoning appeals he's authorized must be extensive and Paul took great pride in this role. The Town has had its share of long term employees, but topping the service mark of 45 years will not be an easy accomplishment. Paul has set the bar high and we offer consummate gratitude for his service. Obviously my grandfather made an excellent choice for this position. Thanks Paul!!

New Officials

Replacing Paul List as Zoning Board Chairman is William Waldruff.

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.

TOWN OF BERGEN NEW WEBSITE/EMAIL INFORMATION

The new website is under construction at bergenny.org
The Town Clerk, Supervisor and Court Offices are at 10 Hunter Street
The Town Board meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm

TOWN SUPERVISOR:

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(W) 494-1121 ext. 22
supervisor@bergenny.org

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Michele M. Smith – 494-1121 Ext. 21
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ZEO/CEO:

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HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT :

Mike Johnson – 494-1362
highwaysup@bergenny.org



From the Desk of County Legislator *Robert Bausch*

Since last news letter, there have been significant changes in Genesee County government. When the legislature met in January, there were three new legislators: Shelley Stein representing the Town and Village of Leroy, and Marianne Clattenburg and Frank Ferrando representing the City of Batavia. The three legislators represent 1/3 of the legislature so it was a significant turnover in representation.

Because of the turnover, the vice chair and two committee chairmanships were open. To fill those vacancies, Mary Pat Hancock, who represents the Towns of Batavia and Stafford and was reelected as Chair of the Legislature appointed Annie Lawrence, who represents the Towns of Darien and Pembroke, as the new Vice Chair, Ray Cianfrini, who represents the Towns of Alabama and Oakfield, Chair of the Public Services and I was appointed Chair of Ways and Means. Having not previously served on Ways and Means, I have a great deal to learn. My other assignments are the audits, liaison to Genesee Community College, Genesee County Nursing Home, Chamber of Commerce, Veterans Affairs, Water Resource and Information Systems Department.

Unfortunate with the various changes, the issues that county government must address remain the same: Unfunded state mandates, need for Medicaid and pension reform, the budget and how to maintain a county nursing home that meets the needs of Genesee County residents and is affordable.

If you have issues or thoughts on these issues, or any issues affecting county residents, please contact me at your convenience.

From the Desk of the Genesee County Clerk *Don M. Read*

Beware of Deed Scam

Genesee County Clerk Don M Read is again advising property owners to beware of a spreading deed copy scam. Property owners may receive by mail or e-mail solicitations offering to do the research and secure a certified copy of the deed to your real estate for a fee of \$50 to \$60. You can obtain that same certified copy from the County Clerk's Office for \$5 to \$10 depending upon the length of the deed. If you desire just a plain (uncertified copy) the fee will be between \$2 to \$5. If you would like a copy of your deed, you can write, call or stop by the County Clerk's Office. It only takes a few minutes to obtain the copy.

Handheld Electronic Devices (example cell phones)

It is now illegal for drivers to use handheld electronic devices for activities such as texting/talking on your phone while a vehicle is in motion. This legislation makes this action a primary traffic offense, giving law enforcement the power to stop drivers solely for engaging in this activity. The monetary penalty for a violation of this law is up to \$150. and 3 points on your driving record.

Coming Soon Return the Favor Program

The County Clerk's office will soon be issuing Return the Favor Program I.D. cards to discharged veterans that have filed their DD214 with our office. This program allows you to receive discounts or services at participating businesses within Genesee County. If you have any questions, please contact the clerk's office at 344-2550 extension 2316.



Bergen Business & Civic Association

BBCA Announcements March 2012

Looking for Volunteers!

The BBCA needs volunteers to help with its many community events, but especially:

- The annual Bergen Park Festival
- Preparation and distribution of the biennial Bergen Directory
- The occasional Bergen Recognition Dinner, which has honored many of Bergen's finest citizens and organizations

We welcome both members and non-members. If you have an interest in helping us in the planning or conducting of any of these long-time and much-anticipated activities, please contact any of our current officers:

- Charlie Cook, President 943 3395, or charlie.cook@libertypumps.com
- Michele Smith, Vice President 494-1121 Ext. 21, or bergenclerk@bergenny.org
- Jean Stewart, Secretary jstewart@rochester.rr.com
- Maria Rowland, Treasurer 721-7721 or mariaroland@yahoo.com

or

- Anne Sapienza (Park Festival Chair) 494-2468 or asapienza@rochester.rr.com

Thank you!

23rd Annual Bergen Park Festival!

Planning is underway for the Festival June 9th, 2012. The band "Trilogy" has been secured for our evening entertainment and we all look forward to Dick Sands chicken barbeque. Our theme this year is "Celebrating Local Businesses" and we hope to focus on our many business members who have helped support the festival. If anyone would like to help out or get on the planning committee we meet again at the Village offices on March 14th at noon.



Easter Egg Hunt March 31st 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 Madgiarz family who graciously runs the event every year.



The Society like all organizations has found it difficult to attract new members. Our Special meeting in January evolved into a discussion about this subject.

We as an organization are dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the Town of Bergen and strive to present a program of interest to the community at each meeting and limit the less interesting business of the Society.

We are currently working with the Byron-Bergen School District to sponsor a scholarship for a senior student with interest in history. We are exploring the idea of an essay contest for high school students on the subject of Bergen history. This may encourage student and family involvement for those who have an interest in local history.

We would like to appeal to the Bergen Community for ideas that would generate an interest in local history. We are also open to ideas on how we may attract individuals who are interested in learning more about Bergen and joining our organization.

I thought I would attempt to generate interest in local history by asking community residents if they knew:

1. Who are the three men that the American Legion Post #575 in named after?
2. What branch of the service were they in?
3. What year was the post founded?



I will have Theresa answer these questions in the next newsletter. Hope to see some new faces at our next meeting on April 5th.

Historian News by Thomas Tiefel

As many of you may know, we are in the midst of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Often referred to as, "America's Bloodiest Conflict", it had claimed more than 620,000 lives between 1861-65. Out of the 2.9 million who had served from the North, just a scant 500 men were from Genesee County. While this may seem like a small number, it had an enormous impact to the residents of our county 150 years ago. The town of Bergen spent several weeks recruiting men for a regiment that would become known as the 129th New York Volunteers. It wouldn't be until 16 months later however that the men of Bergen would see actual combat. Originally structured as an infantry regiment, these men knew they would certainly see some of the most intense fighting of the war. Then, just a few months later on December 19th, 1862, they would find themselves part of the 8th NY Heavy Artillery and the boys from Bergen would be known as Co. "H" for the duration of the conflict. The 8th NY would contain the most Genesee county men than any other regiment that served in the war. It would also see some of the heaviest losses. Battles such as Cold Harbor on June 4th 1864 would prove to be a "harvest of death" for these brave young men. During its service, the regiment lost by death, killed in action, and POWs would total over 670. Bergen residents like Billy Cramton and James Davis would be listed among these casualties. Others, such as Marshall Cook and Thomas Dean who were friends as well as neighbors would return home victorious but would bear the physical scars as a constant reminder.

Continuing through 2012, various exhibits will be on display pertaining to the 8th NY Company H and the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. These exhibits will recognize the brave men of Bergen who fought and died gallantly to preserve our Union. One such exhibit is currently on display at the new Town Hall. So the next time you stop in for information, a license or permit, take a moment to check it out! As always, the historian's office is located at 15 S. Lake Ave in the village of Bergen. If you would like to contact me for any reason, feel free to call 585-494-0080 and I will be happy to assist you!

Library News *by Nancy Bailey*

Stay connected with your Library by checking us out at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org or friend us on Facebook! Lots of great programs coming up!! We also have volunteer opportunities so call or stop in for more information.

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 and go to forms to print from home. If you need Federal tax forms, they are available at 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 March 30th for its winter session and will begin its spring session on April 20th. We enjoy a different themed story time each week with a related craft and a snack! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library.

Our Tale for Three Counties 2012 book The Call by Yannick Murphy community wide book discussion will be held on Thursday, March 8th 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.

Book discussion group meets on Thursdays - April 12th, May 10th, and June 14th!! 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 14th for our annual pre-school concert! Join our smaller patrons at the Bergen First Presbyterian at 9:30am for music, and fun with Gary the Happy Pirate! With audience participation and humor, he is a concert you won't want to miss! 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. No Registration required! Just come join the fun!

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 2012 will be The Call by Yannick Murphy. The author will visit in our area March 22nd at Genesee Community College at 1pm and at the Richmond Memorial Library in Batavia at 7pm. Don't miss this opportunity to meet the author and hear what, who, where and when she wrote The Call. Log on to www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and reserve your copy now.

Book Sale Time! During regular Library hours the week of March 28th until March 30th – we will have LOTS of Adult Fiction books, Children's books, Non-Fiction books, VHS movies, DVD movies, and audio CD's to sell! Sell! Sell! Shop early for the best selection!

Have you ever wanted to be a Friend of the Library?? If so stop by the week of our Book Sale March 28th to March 30th regular Library hours to sign up and get involved.

Spring Break Happenings!! Yes we are open!!

April 4th at 6pm- Movie night! Join us for the showing of "We Bought a Zoo"! The movie is Rated PG fun for everyone!

April 10th at 7pm—Meet Local Author James Bradford Phillips and his sled dogs! Learn about Dog sledding and the adventure books he wrote!

April 12th at 7pm – is our Book Discussion night – join us for a lively discussion. It's a great way to meet new people and explore different types of books.

National Library week is April 10th -14th – Stop in and take out a book or two and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate!

Saturday Morning Movie at 10am will be May 19th with the movie to be announced soon! So check out our website for more information.



Would you like to volunteer during the summer at the Library? For children 11yrs and older, the Library is looking for your help with the summer reading program. Stop by before June 19^h to sign up! Chance to win prizes, help with programs, and place to meet new people! Come join by yourself or with a friend!! The summer reading theme this year is "Dream Big – READ!"

Save the Date: 8/11/12 Wine Tasting fundraiser for the Library – watch for details!

We have downloadable e-books available from our website www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org through the Nioga Library System. The latest best sellers like Lone Wolf by Jodi Picoult, Thief by Clive Cussler, and Celebrity in Death by J.D. Robb are just a few we have available to you at the Library to get your copy reserved on-line at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org or stop in and our Library staff will be happy to help. New children’s books arrive weekly! New DVD’s monthly! Check out Playaways too! If we don’t have it we usually can request it free of charge from our Nioga Library System.

Library will be closed Good Friday April 6th and Holy Saturday April 7th. Have a Happy Easter!

The Library Board of Trustees meets the 1st Monday of every month at 6:30 pm, the public is always welcome!

Town Clerk News by *Michele 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.

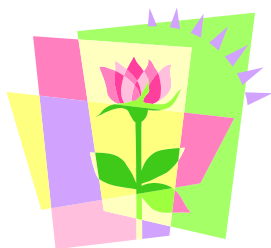
April 12th – Pembroke Highway Department 1145 Main Rd. (Route 5), Pembroke, NY 4:00 – 7:00 PM

May 10th – Leroy Village Highway Department 58 North St., Leroy, NY 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Office Closing

April 6 & 7 -Easter

May 26 & 28 – Memorial Day



Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00

Saturday 9:00 am - noon

Closed on Thursday



The Mill Seat Open House & Information Fair is scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2012 from 3 – 7 PM

SAVE THE DATE

Bergen Park Festival June 9, 2012 10Am – 10 Pm

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

The Bergen Business & Civic Association 2011 – 2012. It is available for \$5 at: Bergen Town Hall, Village of Bergen Office, Sullivan Agency, Gillam-Grant Community Center, Ralph & Rosie's & Carol's Coiffures

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