



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2013

Celebrating the TOWN OF BERGEN'S "200TH BIRTHDAY"
ON APRIL 13, 2013 MORE INFORMATION ENCLOSED



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

Knowing that we'll be moving our clocks ahead on March 10th is a welcoming reminder that spring isn't far away. In the mean time it's fair to note that March can still bring some of the worst winter storms and hazardous driving conditions. The Highway Department will continue to respond when service is needed but driving caution must be exercised during those conditions and respect for the plows on the road is appreciated.

Peachey Road Water District Update

Construction is underway for this district with the water main laid for the service section of Peachey Road. Construction will continue North of Peachey Road on Route 19 and will continue so long as weather permits. Restoration efforts will commence in the spring with the project on schedule for substantial completion by July 31st and final close out on Sept. 29th.

For 2013

For the coming year the town has plans to continue building improvements and repairs where needed. Earmarked for 2013 is a badly needed new roof for the Historians Office at 15 South Lake.

Bergen Bicentennial please review the newsletter carefully for dates and events for this historic celebration.

A Farewell Tribute to Richard "Dick" Partridge:

On February 9th the town suffered the loss of Richard Partridge. This loss was balanced by the celebration of his life and his contributions to Bergen. Dick served Bergen in many capacities; as a Village trustee, member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, a Boy Scout leader and an active member of the Historical Society and the Bergen Business & Civic Association. Dick also served our nation in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. Over the past several years Dick spent countless hours working in the Historians office as a volunteer and in 2011 was recognized by the Business & Civic Association for his contributions. It was a great privilege of mine to present this recognition and below is an excerpt from that event.

"Dick steadfastly, routinely, and diligently serves in the Town Historians office, quite frankly, like it's his job. But most residents would never be aware of the invaluable volunteer service and countless hours he has dedicated to the benefit of that office. Researching, documenting, cataloging, filing, and organizing the puzzle pieces that make up the history of Bergen is Dick's official enterprise in retirement. I guess the town should be quite thankful that Dick doesn't play golf so that we may reap the harvest of his retirement time. Town Historian Tom Tiefel told me he was amazed that when he asked Dick for something, Dick simply sat back, thought for a moment, and immediately grabbed the binder with the content sought. Who knows how many hours, maybe days, Tom would have spent searching if Dick didn't have this information so well chronicled."



(memorials to Dick throughout the newsletter)

(continued)

Dick was my neighbor, so I've know him and his wife Marion for essentially all my life. Always seeing him out in his yard, gardening, planting, pruning, weeding, made him my inspiration to get outside, and those outdoor chores were often interrupted with side yard discussions about life, politics, or general conversation. But one thing was always certain, those moments contained lots of laughter as Dick had a great sense of humor. He also had strong opinions that he wasn't afraid to voice and often expressed thoughts or ideas that might not follow the main stream. He wrote many letters to the editor and frequently received publication in the Daily News, but in contrast to his open expression in conversation and print, he never sought recognition or accolades for his community service. For all his time served in the Historians Office he never collected any compensation, or made any budgetary demands. After hearing his son Bruce describe how Dick didn't drive past a historical marker without stopping to look at it, and how he would read every piece of information during a museum visit, it was clear Dick had a passion for things historical and it was obvious that this passion was further manifest in his service to the Historical Department of the town. Today the vacancy at the desk he once occupied is a void in the department where he served so diligently. For me the void goes beyond that town office as a void in my neighborhood and a void in my life that is filled with the memories of the man that frequently made me laugh and will always be remembered as a great neighbor.

TOWN OF BERGEN WEBSITE/EMAIL INFORMATION

The website is bergenny.org

The Town Clerk, Supervisor and Court Offices are at 10 Hunter Street;

The Assessor and ZEO/CEO are located at 13 S. Lake Ave.

The Town Board meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm

TOWN SUPERVISOR:

Donald Cunningham

(W) 494-1121 ext. 22

supervisor@bergenny.org

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR:

Michele M. Smith – 494-1121 Ext. 21

bergenclerk@bergenny.org

ASSESSOR:

Anne Sapienza

asapienza@rochester.rr.com

13 S. Lake Ave.

P.O. Box 73

494-1484

Fax 494-1488

Hours: Monday 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – Noon & 1- 3 pm

COUNCILMAN:

Joe Nenni – 409-4865

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Hugh McCartney – 494-1290

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ZEO/CEO:

Dave Mason – 861-0728

zeo-ceo@bergenny.org

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT :

Mike Johnson – 494-1362

highwaysup@bergenny.org



From the Desk of County Legislator *Robert Bausch*

Almost daily, we see news reports or references to “why can’t our political leaders agree and work together”. Currently, in NYS that concern is being addressed on at least one major issue: “**The Safe Act**”. The Safe Act is the legislation passed by the legislature in early January on one day notice requiring limits on firearm availability, size of magazines, who can own a gun and the public disclosure of individuals with pistol permits being some of the most questionable provisions.

The opposition to The Safe Act is significant, crosses demographic and geographical boundaries and is bi-partisan. Recently, I was in Albany at a conference of county legislators and the issue received a lengthy airing. Locally, the county legislators have heard the concerns of their constituents and the issues are not just Second Amendment issues.

A significant issue is privacy. If a pistol owner wants to avoid having their name published in the paper, they must file an opt out form with the county clerk. The forms are readily available at the Town Clerk’s office (also in this newsletter), but why is this policy necessary? If an individual has followed the proper procedure to obtain a permit, why does their personal information become public information? Also, what about those that do not own a pistol? When the list is published, will they be targeted?

There are also issues about how this law was passed, the cost of processing in the county clerk’s office, and enforcement by the county sheriff. The list of issues goes on and on, but the point is that the law is bad legislation.

The Genesee County Legislature, along with a majority of other county legislatures in the state, unanimously passed a resolution requesting repeal. At present, it is unknown whether these resolutions and the opposition of the NYS Sherriff, County Clerks and numerous other groups will have any effect.

What can you do? Please let the governor and the state legislators know your opinion on this law. Fortunately our two representatives, Senator Ranzenhofer and Assemblyman Hawley, voted against the law. Also, if you are a pistol owner, please file an opt out form with the county clerk.

Assessment News by *Anne Sapienza*

2013 is a reassessment year for the Town of Bergen. The focus will be on agricultural land values, commercial values and a “smoothing” of home values. The housing market has shown a slight increase in our area but I will be looking at each property to see if an adjustment either up or down is needed. I will be on the road Fridays in my sage green Ford Focus, so don’t get nervous if you see me slowly going down the road.

As always, if your assessment changes you will receive notification by mail and I am always open to talking about it. Please be aware though that if you feel your assessment is too high I will probably request to do an interior inspection.

Thank you for your cooperation and a special 200th Happy Birthday to our town!



HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY BERGEN!



200th Anniversary T-SHIRTS

ON SALE AT THE TOWN & VILLAGE OFFICES

S, M, L, XL \$10

2XL, 3XL, 4XL \$12

GET YOUR COMEMORATIVE T-SHIRT WHILE THEY LAST!

They will also be available April 13th at the Dedication Ceremony &
June 7th & 8th Bergen Park Festival

SPONSORED BY

THE BERGEN BUSINESS & CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AND

THE TOWN OF BERGEN



Bergen Business & Civic Association

Upcoming Events

Come join the Town of Bergen's 200th Birthday Dedication Ceremony

The Ceremony will take place April 13, 2013 at 1:00 pm at Mt Rest cemetery corner of Rt. 19 & Townline Road.

All town octogenarians are invited to request a special ride to the celebration by contacting Fred Ely 494-1574 Route 262 will be closed from Buffalo St. Ext. to Route 19 from 12:30pm until 2:30pm to allow parking for the event.

Program begins at 1:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts

American Legion Post No. 575

Color Guard

"The Star Spangled Banner" by
Francis Scott Key

Byron-Bergen High School Band

Welcome

Introduction of Guests

Invocation

Speakers

Don Cunningham – Town Supervisor

Robert Bausch - Genesee County Legislator

Thomas Tiefel – Town Historian

Musical Number

Byron-Bergen High School Band

Tree Dedication

Time Capsule Presentation

God Bless America

Closing

Refreshments to follow

Schedule subject to change



24th Annual Bergen Park Festival Celebrating the "Town of Bergen's 200th Birthday"!

Planning is underway for the Festival June 7th & 8th this year with "Something Else" playing Friday night at 6:00 pm and The band "Pop Show" has been secured for our Saturday evening entertainment and we all look forward to Dick Sands chicken barbeque. More information will be available in the next newsletter. If anyone would like to help out or get on the planning committee we meet again at the Village offices on March 20th at noon.



Easter Egg Hunt March 23rd 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!

Bergen Historical Society Theresa Pengelly, President

The Bergen Historical Society has recently lost two very active and dedicated members. Richard Partridge passed away February 9th and Velma Jessop passed away March 1st. They will be sadly missed.

Richard and his family want donations given to the Bergen Historical Society for the "Baby Carriage Restoration Project". Everyone was so generous with the amount reaching over \$2,300.00. We appreciate everyone's kindness.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 4th at 7:00 pm at the Byron-Bergen Public Library, 13 S. Lake Ave. A very interesting program is promised with refreshments following. Everyone is welcome!

Historian News by Thomas Tiefel

I will start by expressing my deepest sympathy to the family of Richard Partridge who passed away on February 13, 2013. "Dick" was a longtime friend, mentor, and colleague of mine serving as the Town Historian's archivist. After serving many years as a Bergen Historical Society member, he expanded his volunteer work with becoming archivist in 1993. He was a daily regular at the Historian's office, and he always managed to keep busy with something. His assistance in research, genealogy, archiving, and preservation were just a few of Dick's many talents. As I hold the seat now as Town Historian, I think of the irony that included Dick. It all began 19 years ago when I moved to Bergen. I was a 21 year old "suburbanite" with big dreams and little interest in history. I was told by my new neighbors that my newly purchased property was steeped in history and I should contact then historian Wanda McVain. In doing so, I was invited to the upcoming historical Society meeting that was to be held at 15 S. Lake St, the home of fellow member Ruth Drews. When I arrived, I was greeted by a gruff man wearing shorts who introduced himself simply as "Dick". He proceeded to ask me if I was lost or needed directions! I was laughingly told by another member not to pay attention to him and to have a seat. Little did I know at the time that 18 years later, my reluctant journey to find out about my property would end where it all began. 15 S. Lake St is now my office building and the gruff sarcastic guy named Dick would become not just be my archivist, but someone I could call a friend. I think back to the first day I was appointed as Town Historian. I walked through the door of my office and Dick was at his desk busy doing his usual archival work. I said "hi Dick! Today is a new beginning for both of us!" Without ever raising his head or making eye contact, he replied, "yes it is...just don't touch anything on my desk or my dish of candy and we'll work out just fine!" I remember nodding my head and smiling only to reply, "you got it!" With that, he said "good now let's get to work because I don't touch computers and *YOU* have a lot to do!" I must admit, Dick was a stickler for detail so he made what I thought was going to be the daunting task, much easier. If there had been a book "Town Historian for Dummies", I would bet Dick would have been the author! He always seemed to have all of the answers to everything from state regulations to just knowing where a certain picture or document was filed amongst dozens of binders and boxes. Since his passing, I have had numerous people ask me the question, what am I going to now Dick is gone? My reply, Dick isn't gone, you just can't see him as well as you used to! His spirit is alive and well in all of us that knew him and I will continue to apply everything he taught me to my position as Historian. Thank you Dick for the knowledge you shared and the laughs we had but most of all, for being a good friend.

Museum Update: As winter slowly draws to a close, work continues on the Harford Livery Museum exhibits. The finishing touches are being applied to the Fisher & Son Pharmacy. This exhibit proved to be quite a challenge and ran almost 2 months over the scheduled completion date. Trying to get the exhibit period correct and capture that

“wow factor” proved more difficult than ever imagined. I do believe it's “mission accomplished” however. The general store, blacksmith's shop, and bank will now have to be completed at a blistering pace to make the grand opening at the end of May. No doubt I will be “burning the midnight oil” by the barrel full and buying energy shots by the pallet over the next few months!!!

On a final mention I will be teaming up with our Village Historian Ray McConnell and the Bergen Historical Society on April 6th for the annual Genesee County History Fair at the Genesee Community College. We will have a booth set up along with 25+ other towns/orgs to promote our town's history and upcoming 200th anniversary. Admission is free and it will run from 10am-4pm. Come on down, show us your support and free tickets will be given out to win prizes throughout the day!

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! We have 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! 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.

Freegal music is now available to all who have a valid Nioga Library card! Freegal Music is a new feature on the NIOGA website that allows library card holders three free music downloads per week. These downloads are in MP3 format, and can also be downloaded to iTunes and transferred to an iPod. The music never expires— it is yours to keep! Go to www.nioga.org or www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and click on Freegal.

The Library has preschool story time at 10:30am and 11:15am on Fridays until March 22nd for its winter session and will begin its spring session on April 12th. We enjoy a different themed story each week with a related craft and a snack! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library.

Book discussion group meets on 2nd Thursday of each month. March 14th is our next meeting. Come join this fun group and see what your neighbors are reading!!! We enjoy lively conversation about the book and refreshments too! Stop by the Library to reserve your copy of our current book.

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 2013 will be May the Road Rise up to Meet You by Peter Troy. The author will visit in our area March 7th 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 he wrote May the Road Rise up to Meet you. Check us out on the web at www.taleforthreecounties.org. Log on to www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and reserve your copy now.

March 16th at 10:30am Dora Day (and Diego too) at the Library! Join us and your favorite characters for games, music and fun! Please stop by or call the Library by the 14th of March to sign up!

Spring Break Happenings!! We will be closed March 29th and 30th for the Easter Holiday.

Monday April 1st – Babysitting workshop from 9am-2pm. Cost is \$45/student and includes book. You must be at least 11 years old by the 1st of April. Payment is needed by March 28th.

Tuesday April 2nd at 3pm a special showing of *Rise of the Guardians*-- Come watch on the Big Screen and enjoy popcorn with your friends. Sign- up for this program is recommended by March 28th.

Wednesday April 3rd from 6pm-8pm- Join us for a Scavenger Hunt! Miss Michelle will be here with all her tricks and fun! There will be games and food, so get your friends together and come! This program is recommended for ages 11 years and up but all are welcome. Please sign up by March 28th by calling or stopping by the Library.

Friday April 5th from 11am -2pm Make and Take Craft day—just stop in anytime during the allotted hours and make a fun craft to take home and enjoy! No registration required.

National Library week is April 14th – 20th Stop in and take out a book or two and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate!

Family Story time on Tuesday April 16th at 6:30pm- we will be celebrating spring with a story and with a special craft. Sign up by the 13th of April to participate in the fun!

Saturday Morning Movie at 10:30am 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 18^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 “Dig into Reading!”

Save the Date: 8/3/13 Wine Tasting fundraiser for the Library – watch for details!

Check out our catalog for downloadable e-books **free** with a valid Nioga Library card. If you have any questions on how to do this, feel free to stop in or call. We are adding to our collection every month!

The latest best sellers like Safe Haven by Nicholas Sparks, A Week in Winter by Maeve Binchy, Calculated in Death by J.D. Robb, Guilt by Jonathan Kellerman and The Striker by Clive Cussler 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.

Stop in and get a 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, Freegal – downloadable music and much more are available to you!! Just go to www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org and you’re on your way!

The Library has Roadrunner Internet service available. 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. 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.

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





APPLICATIONS FOR FOOD PROCESSING WORKFORCE TRAINING

PROGRAM AVAILABLE STARTING MARCH 4th

Applications to GCEDC's Food Processing Training Program are available beginning March 4th. The deadline for submitting applications is April 15, 2013. Participants can apply at the Genesee County Career Center, located at 587 East Main Street, Suite 100, East Town Plaza in Batavia, NY or call (585) 344-2042.

Successful program participants will receive a non-credit certificate from Genesee Community College (GCC), which is a permanent record and transcript for completion of the program. Participants will also receive certificates in Lean Systems Six Sigma Yellow Belt (Rochester Institute of Technology), Team Building (GCC), Basic Dairy Science & Sanitation Certificate (Cornell University), and an OSHA Certificate for Safety in a Manufacturing Environment (GCC).

The training program, developed by GCEDC, GCC, RIT, and Cornell University will benefit the area's existing food processing companies. It will also prepare a workforce for companies in the Genesee Valley Agri-Business Park. The training program is funded by an Area Development grant obtained by the GCEDC from the National Fuel Gas Corporation, with additional financial support from the Finger Lakes Food Cluster Initiative-funded by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration in the amount of \$38,000 or 28% of the program.

Applicants will need to complete a customer registration form at the Genesee County Career Center, submit an up-to-date resume, and if required, participate in a math/reading test and a follow-up interview.



About the Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC):

The GCEDC is the primary economic development agency in Genesee County, NY. The GCEDC's mission is to be the driving force in fostering community economic success through growth, expansion and retention of our existing business base and to market our community as "business friendly" facilitating new business attraction in order to build a sustainable long-term economy. The GCEDC is also focused on fostering increased economic activity for our community by providing a high quality of life for our residents and their families. The GCEDC enables this by progressively marketing our community to businesses facilitating business capital investment which contributes to the creation and retention of quality jobs. The Batavia/Genesee County region has been recognized for eight consecutive years by Site Selection Magazine as a top ten Micropolitan in the United States and is rated number three by Business Facilities Magazine as a top metro area for food processing and manufacturing growth.



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 18th – Pembroke Highway Department 1145 Main Rd. (Route 5), Pembroke, NY
4:00 – 7:00 PM

2013 Town & County Tax Payment - Last day to pay Town & County taxes is Monday, April 1st with 2% penalty. Any taxes not paid by that date will be turned over to the Genesee County.



NYS Firearms License Request for Public Records Exemption – The form is on the following page or at the Town Clerk’s office and should be returned to the Genesee County Clerk’s office by April 15, 2013.

In memory of Dick Partridge – Below is a letter to the editor that I wrote that appeared in the Batavia Daily News on February 22nd.

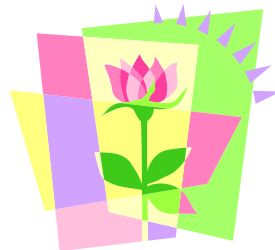
Richard (Dick) Partridge was a consistent contributor of “letters to the editor” to The Daily News for many years. He passed away Feb. 9, 2013, at the age of 83. I typed his very controversial letters for him over the last six years. Most of the time I told him, “they aren’t going to print this, Dick,” but I was always surprised when it showed up in print. I went to visit him at the VA a couple of weeks ago and asked him if he had anything for me to type, and still with his sense of humor he said, “I haven’t had a chance to write anything.” I just want to thank The Daily News for always printing his letters. Dick will be sadly missed in the town of Bergen. He was a daily volunteer at the Historian’s Office right until the end.

Town of Bergen 200th Birthday T-Shirts - Don’t forget to pick up your commemorative t-shirt available at my office.

Office Closing

March 29 & 30 -Easter

May 25 & 27 – 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

NYS Firearms License Request for Public Records Exemption
Pursuant to section 400.00 (5) (b) of the NYS Penal Law

I am: **an applicant** for a firearms license **currently licensed** to possess a firearm in NYS

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Firearms License # (if applicable) _____ Date Issued _____

Licensing Authority / County of Issuance or Application _____

I hereby request that any information concerning my firearms license application or firearms license not be a public record. The grounds for which I believe my information should **NOT** be publicly disclosed are as follows:
(check all that are applicable)

1. My life or safety may be endangered by disclosure because:

A. I am an active or retired police officer, peace officer, probation officer, parole officer, or corrections officer;

B. I am a protected person under a currently valid order of protection;

C. I am or was a witness in a criminal proceeding involving a criminal charge;

D. I am participating or previously participated as a juror in a criminal proceeding, or am or was a member of a grand jury;

2. My life or safety or that of my spouse, domestic partner or household member may be endangered by disclosure for some other reason explained below: (Must be explained in item 5 below)

3. I am a spouse, domestic partner or household member of a person identified in A, B, C or D of question 1. (Please check any that apply)

A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____

4. I have reason to believe that I may be subject to unwarranted harassment upon disclosure.

5. (Please provide any additional supportive information as necessary)

I understand that false statements made herein are punishable as a class A misdemeanor. I further understand that upon discovery that I knowingly provided any false information, I may be subject to criminal penalties and that this request for an exemption shall become null and void.

Signature Date

Date

SAVE THE DATE
Bergen Park Festival June 7 & 8, 2013

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

Coming soon 2013-2014 Directory

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

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