



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2014



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

Spring is coming!

It's been a challenging winter and with the continued unseasonably cold weather it's difficult to believe we are on the brink of spring, but with the clock change on March 9th we will be able to welcome daylight later in the day, and hopefully, warmer weather soon to follow. March is always that unpredictable month that can surprise us with heavy snow, cold temperatures, and the occasional tease of a sunny warm day here and there, and hopefully heavy snowfall is done for the season. Regardless, our Highway Department remains prepared to respond when (if) the need arises. Always remember to exercise caution when traveling on snow covered roads and have respect for the plow crews servicing them.

Public Water

The Peachey Road Water District is complete and financial audits for the project are underway as required by USDA, Rural Development.

Another public water project is under consideration for a portion of North Bergen through a potential district being created by the Town of Byron. This area was looked at several years ago and has been revived by the new administration in Byron. Bergen residents on portions of Warboys Road, North Bergen Road, and along Sautell Road are possible candidates for service. The Town of Byron is conducting informational meetings and gathering information to consider this and other water projects in Byron.

For 2014

The town will continue to work on needed building improvements and repairs that get identified and prioritized through our committee. Already this year we had an unexpected emergency repair to the sewer line at Library building and with the help of Russell Plumbing, our Highway Department, and Dick Ayers our maintenance man, the system was quickly repaired. Other upgrades being considered at this location include replacement windows along with some interior work. Our Parks Committee is developing a Master Plan and considering activity at Robbins Brook Park and Drews Nature Center. They are also developing plans to improve access to Drews Nature Center to encourage entrance by foot to the area.

High-Speed Rail

At a point where many of us thought the idea of High-Speed Rail coming through Bergen was a concept that had passed, I must inform you that it is alive and well! The State has undergone studies to look at different possible corridors to accommodate High-Speed Rail. One consideration is to utilize the West Shore rail bed, which is the access point for Drews Nature Center and impacts the Bergen Swamp Preservation Area. There are public hearings on environmental impacts are coming to Buffalo & Rochester as follows...

Buffalo – Thursday 3/6/14, 6pm – 8pm
The Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum
263 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203

Rochester – Friday 3/7/14, 6pm – 8pm
Rochester National Museum of Play at Strong
One Manhattan Square, Rochester, NY 14607

Anyone with an opinion on the impact of High-Speed Rail in our area is encouraged to attend public meetings and contact State & Federal representatives. More information can be obtained at the D.O.T. website. <https://www.dot.ny.gov/empire-corridor>

Business Growth in Bergen

You may have noticed some activities related to business growth in Bergen. The Firing Pin completed a new facility on Buffalo Road near Pavilion Gift Company last year and there are other new projects underway which include; a new fueling center and country store at the Northwest corner of Route 19 and 33, expansion plans at Liberty Pumps with growth to the West of the current location. Seven Eleven has taken over the former Sugar Creek and also has renovation/expansion plans for that site. We welcome the new business to our area and celebrate those with expansion/renovation plans. May our community members provide the support needed to sustain business activities long into the future.

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From the Desk of County Legislator *Robert Bausch*

Over the past two months the county legislature has been busy adjusting to many organizational changes. The most significant was the election of a new chair upon Mary Pat Hancock’s retirement after 22 years with 13 years as chair. At the organization meeting, the legislature elected Ray Cianfrini, Legislator District 1 (Towns of Alabama & Oakfield) as the new Chair. With this change and the election of two new legislators, various legislative assignments were also changed. Annie Lawrence, Legislator District 3 (Towns of Darien & Pembroke) was appointed Chair of the Human Services Committee and Marianne Clattenburg, Legislator District 8 (north side of the City of Batavia) was appointed Chair of the Public Services Committee.

I remained Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and a member of the Public Services Committee, but a number of my special assignments were changed. I was appointed to the Criminal Justice Board, Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, Inter County Advisory Group, and the Rochester Transportation Council while remaining on the Water Resource Agency Board and continuing as liaison to the Chamber of Commerce.

The legislature started the year where the old legislature left off: addressing the finances of the Genesee County Nursing Home. Three legislative subcommittees were appointed to address related issues. The first, which I am a member of, is developing alternative financial models. The second is reviewing current operations to identify additional cost saving options. The third is working with the community at large to ensure county residents understand the issues and have an opportunity to provide input. The legislature’s goal is to develop a plan for the long term viability of the nursing home by this summer.

There are numerous departments of county government and often the smaller departments are overlooked. The History Department is a good example. The department has the responsibility for county record retention and serves as the repository for various county historical records such as newspapers and military records. Sue Conklin is the supervisor and an excellent historian with a willingness to assist visitors. Last fall the department moved to newly renovated space in County Building 2, on West Main St. Rd. The entrance is on the east side just past the Veterans Service entrance. The area is very spacious and bright and the materials are well organized. If you are interested in researching local or family history, please avail yourself of this excellent county resource.

Town Clerk News by *Michele Smith*



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

2014 Town & County Tax Payment - Last day to pay Town & County taxes is Monday, March 31st with 2% penalty. Any taxes not paid by that date will be turned over to the Genesee County.

Office Closing

April 18th & 19th – Easter
May 24th & 26th – 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



Bergen Business & Civic Association

From President, Anne Sapienza

The BBCA has been extremely busy the last year. We spearheaded the 200th birthday celebration of the Town of Bergen, had a wonderful 24th Bergen Park Festival and parade and have been chosen to receive the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce “Special Recognition of The Year” award on February 22, 2014. *(Pictures below)*

The BBCA began as the Business Men’s Association on May 30, 1896, that is almost 118 years ago. The dues were \$1.00 a year and 10 business men attended. On June 23 of that year, George E. Best of Barre Center rented a store in the Tulley Block out of which James Tulle moved in and opened an undertaker establishment. On July 9th Exfoliate Fertilizer Company leased part of Horace Southport’s farm for marl. On July 10th M.J. Fisher of Snyder & Fisher Little Falls, manufacture of bicycles, was in town to see what inducements businessmen could offer to have him establish a factory here--. Corfu raised \$1200! On July 13th 1896 it was noted that a harness maker from Byron moved into the west shop of the Tulle Building (note spelling of Tulle). The Business Men’s Association did not feel that Bergen could support two harness makers. On Sept 12th it was noted that a bank was coming to Bergen and is much needed. The bank opened on September 23rd and the first depositor was George T. Davis. The safe weighed nearly 5 tons and was insured also. A saloon opened in October run by Dane Lynch. On December 7th it was reported that A Arnold and George H. Church, committee members of the Business Men’s Assoc. went to Cohocton to try and lure a cigar factory to Bergen for a \$1500 bonus. It worked and Bergen had its first cigar factory open on January 12, 1897.*

When I read through these minutes from our forefathers, I guess they were busy too! The idea of luring companies to a town is not new, they had an Economic development Council before we had a name for it. What was a major change in 1969 was that the Businessmen’s Association reorganized and became the Bergen Business and Civic Association. This brought together the private, public and non-profit sectors. It was and still is a great marriage of talent from the Bergen area. We have members from the business sector, interested citizens in helping our community and other non-profit representatives.

Yes, this is where I put in the plug. We welcome new members and would love to have your fresh ideas. The BBCA meets the third Monday of the Month at 7pm at 13 S. Lake Ave (Library Building). Come join us!

*Source for the historical info is unknown but found typed up in our book of minutes. My sneaking suspicion is Tally Almquist



Easter Egg Hunt April 12th at 1:00 PM

Business & Civic Association sponsors this annual event at the Hickory Park in the Village



The BBCA would like to thank the Madgiarz family who graciously runs the event every year!

Historian News by Thomas Tiesel

I think my feeling is shared by many when I say I can't wait until spring! Old Punxsutawney Phil predicted 6 more weeks of winter, and we finding this out to be true.

As 2014 starts underway, I am looking forward to what will hope to be another prosperous year for the Harford Museum. I am excited to say, I can hardly wait to break the museum out of mothballs, clear the cobwebs, and bust open the doors for the 2014 season beginning in May! As usual, the work continues inside to bring the existing exhibits to life and have some new featured artifacts on display that haven't seen the light of day perhaps for as many as 40 years! With last year's construction of the new exhibits behind us, I feel like the hard part is over and now it's time to roll up my sleeves and apply all of the hard work into the education of our future generations. I enjoy nothing more than the annual 4th grade field trip from the Byron-Bergen Elementary School. Now there is so much to see and learn about regarding our town's history.

The famous phrase “find us on Facebook” seems to be everywhere these days. Ahhh, the modern age of technology!.... I know some of you are thinking, “Bah Humbug” to the age of smart phones and computers, and some days I'm right there with ya! However, whether we like it or not, the age of technology is here to stay and we all will have to board that “crazy train” sooner or later. I spent the winter thinking about how I can reach out to the generation known as “Y” that is steeped in technological influence. These adults spend a daily average of 3-5 hours searching the infinite world of cyberspace! My head hurts just thinking about that!

After much thought, I decided what better way to reach out and say “hey check out what's happening in your local museum and historian's office without leaving the comfort of your home” than to develop a Facebook page for The Harford Livery Museum Complex! The page is currently under construction and it will serve as an excellent resource for progress, pictures, upcoming events, and feedback. I soon will be able to say, “find us on Facebook!”

Last but not least, I wish to congratulate The Bergen Business and Civic Assn. for their Genesee County Chamber of Commerce 2014 Special Recognition Award! As an 18 year member of the BBCA, I am proud to be part of such a worthwhile organization and this prestigious award is well deserved! Congrats!!!!

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 and “Like” us on Facebook! Lots of great programs coming up!!

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.

Library has preschool story time at 10:30am on Fridays. We enjoy some stories, a related craft and a snack! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library.

Book discussion group will meet March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, and June 12th!! 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.

(continued)

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 2014 will be The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson-Walker. The author will visit in our area March 20th at Genesee Community College at 1 pm and the Richmond Memorial Library in Batavia at 7pm. Check us out online at www.taleforthreecounties.org or “Like” us on Facebook. Log on to www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and reserve your copy now.

Save the date of March 19th for our annual pre-school concert! Join our smaller patrons at the Bergen First Presbyterian Church at 10:00am for music, magic, puppets and fun with Cris Johnson! With audience participation and humor, the “I Love to Read” show you won’t want to miss! No Registration required! Just come join the fun!

Saturday Morning Cartoons at the Library on March 22nd at 10:30 am. Join us for popcorn and enjoy the movie “Frozen” on the big screen! Everyone invited!! Registration appreciated!

Is your child staying home alone while you are at work? Come to the National Safety Council Home Alone workshop with Epic Trainings on April 12th from 10:30- 12:30 to 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 April 5th!

Spring Break Happenings!! Yes we are open!!

National Library week is April 13-19th – Stop in and take out a book or two and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate!

April 15th at 6:30—Buffalo and Brandy! Join us for National Library week to kick off our spring Amazing Race Reading program. Come find out how to race and win prizes! No registration!

April 17th at 6:30 ---Come join us at the Library to make a Fused Glass Plant Stake with OATKA Glass Studio. You will be able to create your own one of a kind glass ornament for your garden or special plant. Cost\$5 per person. Class size is limited so sign up early by calling or stopping in soon! Recommended for ages 5 and up.

If you like learning about World War II? We have a fun program with Geoff Clough’s WWII Music on May 1st at 7 pm. Join us along with the Bergen Historical Society for a sentimental journey down memory lane. You will find interesting and funny trivial facts about the songs of the 40’s. This program is made possible (in part) Reach Grant funds, Decentralization Regrant Program of the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council (a.k.a GO ART!) No registration required.

Bring your Teddy or other favorite stuffed toy for story time on May 13th at 6:30. We will celebrate with stories, craft and snack!! Come join the fun! No registration required.

Come enjoy some great music for the Byron Memorial Day events with Canal Street String Band on May 26th after the parade at the Byron Fire Hall on Rt.262. This show is made possible (in part) Reach Grant funds, a decentralization Regrant Program of the

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 19th to sign up! Chance to win prizes, help with programs, and place to meet new people! Come join by yourself or with a friend!!

Have you read the newest bestsellers? We have Concealed in Death by J.D. Robb, Fault in Our Stars by John Green, Private L.A. by James Patterson, and many many more! Stop by the Library to get your copy or reserve your copy on-line at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org! Check out our catalog for OverDrive downloadable e-books and audio books, Zinio digital magazines, and Freegal Music downloads free with a valid Library card. New children’s books arrive weekly! New DVD’s monthly!

SAVE THE DATE

Back by popular demand Friday, June 13th Jim MacConnell's Fish Fry 5-6:30 pm

Bergen Park Festival June 14th

2013-2014 Directory

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

Orders are still being taken for the "Buy a Brick" program for Carpenter Memorial Park (located next to the tracks downtown). Do you have someone you would like to memorialize? Prices are still the same: \$50 for individual pavers, \$100 for larger corporate pavers. Order forms are located at the Village Office and the Town Hall. Be a part of Bergen's History!

BERGEN NEWSLETTER

10 HUNTER STREET

BERGEN, NY 14416

bergenny.org