



# TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

## September, October, November 2012



**Around Town** *by Supervisor Donald Cunningham*

### **Town News ...**

The dry summer is closing fast and fall begins our budget cycle. This year the Town has tackled some major tasks related to buildings and grounds. The buildings committee has been busy trying to identify and address deteriorating conditions at both the Library and the Historians Office. Some of the accomplishments include new windows and a facelift on the front of the Library building and we are preparing for other upgrades to the doors and interior work to better accommodate Library activities. Much of the work has been accomplished through voluntary work crews and some of the contracted work will be paid for through a grant award to the Library. The Historian has also organized work efforts to complete painting and upgrades at 15 South Lake Ave. and the building is desperate for a roof. We are gathering estimates to be able to include this expenditure in the coming budget. You've probably noticed the building at 17 South Lake Ave. has been removed and the site graded and seeded. This property was purchased by the Town with the intent to secure the property in the downtown vicinity around the Library & Harford Barn. The building served for years as temporary offices and storage but time had taken its toll and after vacating the structure many repairs were evident. Investment to make it suitable for official municipal business and public access just weren't practical. With consideration to the poor condition of the building, the odd sized small lot, shared driveway, and the long term intent to make this downtown location an attraction for community activity, the Buildings Committee and Town Board agreed the building should be razed. Prior to that end it served as valuable training for the Fire Department.

### **Peachey Road Water District Update**

A contract for the Peachey Road water district has been awarded to Mar-Wal Construction and construction is scheduled to begin around the end of October. Notifications will be sent to district residents for a sign up session scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>. Construction will likely take place throughout the fall, winter, and spring. The project will be funded through a bond anticipation note throughout construction with long term financing from a loan through USDA-Rural Development.

### **More on Public Water**

I recently received communication that the Town of Byron is reconsidering plans for developing public water along Warboys and North Bergen Roads, which opens an opportunity for a joint project to service the North Bergen area. We will provide information as discussions progress.



*(Continued)*

## Parks

The Town maintains a couple of areas for leisure and recreation activities. Robins Brook Park on Townline Road has transformed into sports fields for youth baseball and soccer yet still offers a great setting for walking and relaxing. The downside is that this is also the location for the town's transfer station, which remains the primary vision when entering or passing by. The board has been discussing ideas on how to dress up the entrance to create a more appealing look as a park and less focus on the transfer station. We will be looking at plans to better enhance this location. Another recreation area maintained by the town is the old West Shore rail bed. Though not officially designated as a park, it is commonly referred to as a linear park and gives access to Drews Nature Center. It gets used by walkers, bikers, and recreational vehicles such as atvs, and snowmobiles. Unfortunately the board has recently received reports of abuse primarily at the route 19 access point. Some individuals or groups at this location are allegedly illegally operating atv's along Route 19 and Bissell Road creating a safety concern for residents and motorists. As a result we will be officially alerting law enforcement agencies to patrol this area and respond to calls from residents. Hopefully and escalation in enforcement will eliminate the abusers so that use area may continue for those who enjoy it legally and respectfully.

## Genesee County Department of Motor Vehicles



### County Building I

15 Main Street

P.O. Box 379

Batavia, New York 14021

Email: [DMV@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:DMV@co.genesee.ny.us)

(585) 344-2550 ext 2247 or 2248

Fax: (585) 344-8521

Office Hours: Monday-Friday

8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

### Drop Box



Just a reminder there is a DMV Drop Box in the Village of Bergen in front of the Village Hall and Gregory's on Rt. 19. Pick up will be every other day and processed for next day turn around. Registration renewals, plates to be surrendered, dealer work etc. can be dropped off at this location. Genesee County DMV gets to retain 12.7% of every transaction processed in Batavia for the its surrounding towns & villages.



This summer the primary topic of discussion at the county legislature has been the 2013 budget and how best to prepare for it. Numerous recommendations have been made to NYS that could assist with the process (some at no cost to the state) but to date no positive response has been received.

The one issue the state has made their position clear on is county owned and operated nursing homes. Their statements and actions clearly indicate that they want the counties out of the nursing home business. Numerous counties are presently in the process of attempting to sell or somehow dispose of their nursing homes. The Genesee County Legislature has not determined their long term strategy but in the short term various revenue enchantments have been implemented with more to come. But even given the best scenario, the multi-million dollar annual subsidies from the county to the nursing home will need to continue as long as the county owns the nursing home. This is not a sustainable model and legislature will need to seek alternatives.

In the last newsletter I noted that the County Clerk, Don Reed, had authorized the placement of a motor vehicle drop box in front of the village office. I would encourage everyone to use the drop box as it: a.) saves postage; b.) allows the county to retain a portion of the fee as opposed to all of it going to the state; and c.) results in a more rapid turnaround. So, please take advantage of this service.

When preparing to write this newsletter, I could not help but reflect on the recent loss of Tallie Almquist. When Jan & I moved to Bergen, Tallie was one of the first people we met. Over the years we had numerous contacts with Tallie and Earl, her late husband, what a pair. When they put their minds to a project there was no stopping those two. Tallie and Earl, both active in the town and county Republican Party, were the first to approach me about becoming active in politics. Bergen was blessed to have the Almquists as a part of the community and they will be long remembered.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me anytime at 494-2114.



From Historian **Thomas M. Tiefel**

I will start by expressing my deepest sorrow in the passing of a longtime friend, mentor, and colleague Eileen "Tally" Almquist. Tally served as Bergen's village historian for many years and Bergen has suffered a monumental loss with her passing. Tally served our community as a teacher, author, researcher, and speaker. I will cherish the 17+ years of having the pleasure of working with her both within the Historical Society and as Town Historian.

On the brighter side, I am very pleased with the village's appointment of Raymond McConnell as our new Village Historian! Ray and I have a professional friendship spanning almost 2 decades and I couldn't think of a better fit for the position. I have no doubt he will excel in the field and it will be a pleasure to be working with him. Congrats Ray and welcome aboard!

**Museum Update:** Well, I will begin by thanking all who visited the Harford Barn & Livery museum during our annual Park Festival. Over 65 visitors passed through its doors over the course of the day. Many were anxious to see the featured exhibit, The W.J. Davy Carriage Works ca. 1885. An overwhelming positive feedback was received, and many stated that they will be returning next year for the grand re-opening of the museum to see the remaining exhibits that will be constructed over the next several months. I will throw in an interesting side note that many materials such as old doors, trim, and early plank flooring were salvaged by me from the former Wilcox House (17 S. Lake Ave) prior to demolition in July. However you look at it, from "going green", "recycling", "picking" to "one man's trash is another man's treasure", these parts and pieces plan to be incorporated into upcoming exhibits. Without a doubt, it's a win/win and I thank the Town Board for granting permission to obtain these items. A general store, pharmacy, blacksmith shop, and bank are slated for exhibition in 2013. A handful of volunteers including myself are eager to roll up our sleeves and get started as summer draws to a close. With any luck, it will make the winter months fly by LOL!

On a final mention, it was recently brought to my attention that a certain book pertaining to Bergen's history had surfaced in a WNY auction. This "book" has been revealed as the original ledger belongs to the Harford House Hotel which stands on the SE corner of S. Lake and Rochester streets. The hotel, which has since been converted to apartments known today as Devonshire Manor served as lodging for many who had "rode the rails and trails" passing through Bergen on their way to other parts of the state. I have "tracked down" and contacted the new owner of the ledger, and I am currently in negotiations in an attempt to bring another piece of Bergen's history "home". The current owner has brought it to my attention that there is an entry in this ledger listed as the legendary showman, P.T. Barnum! Could Bergen have shown the creator of "The Greatest Show On Earth" an evening of some WNY hospitality? Stay tuned!

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!

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**Historical Society by Theresa Alexander, President**

The Bergen Historical Society hosted the coffee and donuts in the early hours of the Bergen Park Festival- the workers enjoyed our efforts. Fred and Eunice Ely supplied the carriage and tractor for the parade. Our own carriage stayed in the livery as Tom had just built a wonderful display featuring it. After the parade the museum was opened to the public. A fine response was made, within the next ten days; four groups of school children viewed our livery.

In view of this, we decided additional security was needed; several years ago we had a special meeting with this fact in mind. Tom got in touch with Brian Kavanagh at Level 1 PC and had a surveillance system installed at a reasonable price. I met with our "Executive Committee" and it was unanimous that the cameras be installed at once. Artifacts from Stone Church are being utilized in the exhibits at the Livery.



## Library News *by Nancy Bailey*

This year's summer reading program "Dream Big- Read!" was a success!!! Over 150 children participated by reading more than 1800 books! Thank you to all our junior volunteers!! We couldn't have done it without your help!

Thank you for your continued support of our summer reading program: Demo's Truck Sales, Ralph & Rosie's, Chark's Glass & Mirror, Rose Garden Bowl, Craft Supplies Unlimited, the Widrig Family, Wendy's, Lift Bridge Book Store, Darien Lake Amusement Park, Seabreeze Amusement Park, Tops Friendly Markets of Leroy, Target of Batavia, Wal-Mart of Brockport, and Wegmans of Brockport. Without the generous donations of these merchants and individuals, our summer reading program wouldn't be possible.

Thank you to the Library Board of Trustees for a very successful Red, White and Read wine/beer tasting event! Our hosts Brett and Kristen Wilcox as well as over 50 others participated in raffles and auctions made this day a special fundraiser event. The generosity of time and monies that this community gives is amazing so again thank you to all who helped make this fundraiser happen.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month!!! Stop by the Library and get ready to explore!!! All you need is a driver's license to sign up. If you are 18 and younger, we need your parents/guardian to come in and sign you up.

Library hours are:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10-12 & 2-8

Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-1



Or discover us on the web at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) and on FaceBook too!

Our Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the book The Camel Bookmobile by Masha Hamilton. This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month: October 11th, November 8th, and December 13th.

Come join the fun!

Pre-school story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 14th. Join Miss Michelle for a story, craft and a treat! This is recommended for ages 3-5 but younger children are welcome with their parents/guardian. **Registration is appreciated.**

Special South African Storyteller event will be held at the Gillam Grant Community Center on Monday September 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30. Karima Amin is a member of National Storytelling Network and has shared stories in local, national, and international venues. Come enjoy learning about customs, traditions and history by listening to this entertaining storyteller! Then do a cultural craft. This free program is made possible by the New York State Council of the Arts with the support of Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Saturday Morning Movie on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Come enjoy Madagascar3 on the Big Screen! Enjoy a treat and drink too! No registration required—just come and enjoy!

October 25<sup>th</sup> is our Spooky but fun- Halloween story time at 6:30pm. Dress up in costume and join us for a story or two, craft and tasty treat! Registration is appreciated.

November 15<sup>th</sup> will be stories of Thanksgiving with Miss Michelle at 6:30pm. After a story or two, there will be a craft, and a fun snack! Registration is recommended.

Saturday Morning Movie November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am on the Big Screen with the movie "Brave". Enjoy some popcorn and a drink while you watch this fun movie!

*(Continued)*

The National Safety Council Babysitting class will be offered at the Library on Wednesday November 21st from 9-2. You must be at least 11 years old to attend. Stop by before November 17th for register and payment. The cost is \$45 and includes workbook. Class size is limited!

**The Library will be Closed November 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Have a Great Thanksgiving!**

Holiday Craft night on December 20th at 6:30- come join us as we make a special gift to give to Mom or Grandma. Registration required. Call the Library for more information or to sign up.

**The Library will be Closed December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. So Have a Happy and Safe Holiday season!**

Holiday Break Happenings:

Movie Day on December 27<sup>th</sup> showing at 2pm and 6pm—movie to be determined

Craft Day on December 28<sup>th</sup> from 10-6 – come make a noisy craft to help ring in the New Year!



If you don't find what you are looking for at the Library, then we can order it for you from the NIOGA Library System. The website is [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) and click on catalog to see if our system has the book you are looking for. You then can call the Library at 494-1120 or stop in with your request or questions on all events.

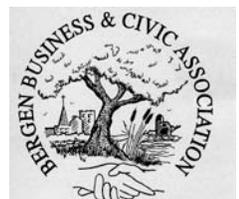
The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost, Roadrunner Internet on three computers, Wi-Fi and interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system. Check us out on the web at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) or stop in and we will assist you! You can also friend us on Facebook to keep up with the latest events. For more information on our services or programs, please call the library at 494-1120.

Happy Reading-



## THE TOWN OF BERGEN'S 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

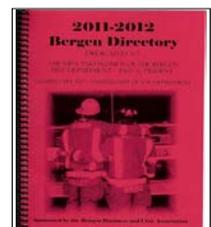
Any Residents interested in being on a committee for the Town's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of April 3, 1813 which will be spear headed by the Bergen Business & Civic Association (the same organization that puts on the Bergen Park Festival). The Committee will meet once a month to come up with ideas and plan for next year's celebration. The first meeting will be held September 17<sup>th</sup> in the Library conference room 13 S. Lake Ave. at 6:00 pm. Call Michele Smith 494-1121 Ext. 21 for more information.



### 2011-2012 Bergen Directory

The Bergen Business & Civic Association 2011 – 2012 Bergen Directory

is now on sale for \$5.00. It may be purchased at: Bergen Town Hall, Village of Bergen Office, Sullivan Agency, Gillam-Grant Community Center, Ralph & Rosie's Deli & Carol's Coiffures.



**The 2013-2014 directory information is being gathered if you have any changes please call the Town Clerk at 494-1121 Ext. 21**

## MARRIAGE OFFICER



I was appointed as Marriage Officer by the Town Board and can perform Marriage Ceremonies in the Town of Bergen please call the office for more information.

## HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES WENT ON SALE AUGUST 13TH



A portion of all sales of NYS Hunting and Fishing Licenses purchased in the Town of Bergen stays in the Town of Bergen, so purchase your licenses at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. If you purchased a lifetime license you can pick up your free DMP permits. DMP permits are available until October 1st 2/\$10 with the purchase of a 2012-2013 hunting license. Extra DMP permits will be available Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, The Town Clerk's Office will be open during regular business hours, on a first come first serve basis also 2/\$10.

## DOG LICENSES



All dogs, four months of age or older need to be licensed along with proof of rabies vaccination and neutering or spaying, if applicable, must be presented at the time of licensing. Dog licenses are due yearly from the date of licensing, 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. Please take care of any overdue or unlicensed dogs as soon as possible. Renewals can always be mailed in as long as there is updated rabies information sent with payment. If your dog has died or you no longer own it please let me know so I can take it out of the system.



## ANTI-RABIES CLINICS

Each dog, cat and ferret must be accompanied by someone who can control it. Vaccinations are free for Genesee County residents but a \$5.00 voluntary donation per animal is requested to offset clinic expenses. Non-county residents must pay a mandatory \$5.00 fee per animal immunized:

**October 18th – Leroy Village Highway Garage 58 North Street Leroy 4:00 – 7:00 PM**

### Town Clerk Office Closings

October 8<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day

November 12<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day

November 22<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving

### Town Clerk Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

8:00 AM – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM – Noon

Closed on Thursday





## ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS

If you are leaving town for the winter please leave your winter address with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector to mail your Town & County Tax Bill to avoid any late fees. All Tax Bills are mailed on December 31<sup>st</sup> and are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> without penalty.

Michele Smith, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

494-1121 Ext. 21

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