



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

September, October, November 2013



Around Town *by Supervisor Donald Cunningham*

Town News ...

With kids back to school and the leaves just starting to turn, it's a sign that fall is coming fast. For the town, it's the start of our budget cycle. The 2013 budget has fared well with expenditures in line and revenues up slightly from estimated amounts. The Town Board will look hard at the budget for 2014 with continued focus on needed building repairs and improvements. Most major building needs, such as the roof on the Historians building, have been addressed, but we will continue to strive towards assuring our buildings are in good condition for serving the public. As usual, I have asked all department heads to take a conservative approach to budget requests in order to keep changes to the tax levy & rate at a minimum. During the budget process I will ask the Town Board to do the same and only consider significant line item increases where absolutely necessary. The 2014 budget year will also begin the review of the Comprehensive Plan for the Town & Village. This activity will also need budgetary consideration as we work towards plan renewal in 2015.

Peachey Road Water District Update

This project achieved substantial completion in July and most restoration work has been completed as of this writing. We expect to close out the project around the end of September or early October. Long term financing with USDA Rural Development will begin after that.

As a result of this project I have had some calls regarding public water service to other, more rural areas of the town. It's understandable why residents with poor water conditions would inquire about service, but it should be noted that rural areas with farm land and open fields become very difficult to consider due to the cost. The cost of water main installation becomes more favorable where a high density of homes can be serviced, but the Town Board will always remain considerate to any support of residents for public water.

Parks

Our recreational areas are another item that gets budgetary consideration and we have advanced development at Robins Brook Park on Townline Road to it's maximum potential for youth recreation. Concentration will continue on other amenities to enhance the park. We are always open for suggestions so a survey is available on the Town website to help us gather information and ideas. It can be found at www.bergenny.org

(continued)



The West Shore Linear Trail

We are continuing to monitor the use of the West Shore Linear Trail and remind residents in the area to report any illegal activity immediately to either the Sheriff's office or the NYS Troopers.

Any motorized vehicles using the trail should...

- Obey all laws governing the equipment being operated.
- Not Trespass on private property along the trail
- Not use excessive speed on the trail
- Exercise courtesy and caution to walkers, bikers, and other trail users.
- Minimize noise along the trail



Exemption for Capital Improvements to Residential Buildings.

Residents should be aware that Local Law # 1 of 2013 makes provision to Exempt Capital Improvements to Residential Buildings in the Town of Bergen. Basic details are outlined below.

- Residential buildings within the Town of Bergen, New York that are reconstructed, altered or improved, pursuant to 421-f of the NYS Real Property Tax Law shall be exempt from taxation.
- The exemption equals the base exemption, multiplied by one of the following percentages. The extent of such exemptions shall decrease by 12½% of the exemption base each year during such additional period pursuant to the following.

Year 1	100%
Year 2	87.5%
Year 3	75%
Year 4	62.5%
Year 5	50%
Year 6	37.5%
Year 7	25%
Year 8	12.5%
Year 9	0%

Complete details on the exemption, eligibility, and the application process can be obtained from the Town Clerks Office.

Applications (Form RP-421f) can be found at http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp421f_fill_in.pdf



Recently, there have been some reports and statistics released by various agencies that are very good and some not so good. These reports should be taken with a grain of salt, but they do provide

The first is the unemployment rate. Genesee County is very fortunate to have the second lowest unemployment rates in the state – 6.1%. Looking forward, economic activity in the county is projected to continue improving which will increase the employment opportunities.

Recently, the Center for Governmental Research in Rochester released a study of county-owned nursing homes in NYS. The primary finding was that they are all losing money and a number have been, are being, or soon will be, sold. As pointed out in the report, the daily loss at county-owned nursing homes for a Medicaid patient is \$100 per day and the state has no interest in helping the counties by increasing Medicaid reimbursement. The Genesee County Nursing Home is losing closer to \$125 per day for each Medicaid patient and this number is growing based on an antiquated reimbursement formula. To help reduce this loss, the domiciliary care wing of the facility is being downsized from 80 beds to 40 beds following the state's denial of a request to update the areas to assisted living level of care which various state reports have cited a need for in this region.

Last, and the one I found most disturbing because of its long range impact, is the loss of income in NYS. Based on the study performed by the Tax Foundation of Washington, DC, a nonprofit-nonpartisan group, during the period 2001 – 2010, NYS lost \$45.6 billion in personal income. The primary reason was residents moving out of state and no new workers moving into the state. This was the highest rate in the US for that period followed by California at \$29.4 billion or only 2/3rd NYS's amount even though California has a larger population base. Obviously, this loss is not sustainable.

In summary, NYS, the counties, local municipalities, and residents all have their work cut out for them. As the county legislature begins its budget preparation for 2014, these issues will be foremost in our minds.

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



(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.

From Historian **Thomas M. Tiefel**

As summer draws to a close, I can look back on the year and have a great sense of satisfaction as Town Historian. Not only were deadlines met regarding the museum exhibits, but we had the largest turnout of visitors on record to see and enjoy them! Over 240 people came from all parts of the county to take a look at Bergen's bygone era. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and some returned for a second look! Many were amazed at the extensive collection of artifacts Bergen has accumulated over the years. Some of which haven't seen the light of day in nearly 40 years! With all of the attention and enjoyment these items bring, it also became a concern to preserve and protect them for future generations. Keeping this in mind, it was decided by the town board and the buildings & grounds committee to install a better security system courtesy of Doyle Security Corp. I wish to give special thanks to Town Councilman Brian Stone for spearheading the project along with the assistance of both the highway dept and Churchville Electric in making it all possible. Now along with our current surveillance system, monitored protection against fire and theft will ensure our precious pieces will be safe for many years to come! As I write this, I can tell you that I can hardly wait until 2014 to resume work on various projects! As always, if I can be of assistance you can reach me at 494-0080 and I will be happy to assist you.

New legislation requires all homeowners receiving a Basic STAR exemption to register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and subsequent years. All Basic Star recipients will receive registration instructions by mail.



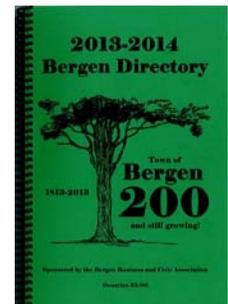
Registration deadline in December 31, 2013

Visit the Web site at www.tax.ny.gov to register or you can register by calling (585) 457-2036 Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 8:00 pm & Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

SENIOR CITIZENS (65 and older and within income limits) receiving Enhanced STAR benefits are not affected by the new registration requirement. In order to continue to received Enhanced STAR, seniors must continue to apply annually, or participate in the Income Verification Program

2013-2014 Bergen Directory

The Bergen Business & Civic Association 2013 – 2014 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.



This year's summer reading program "Dig into Reading" was a success!!! Over 150 children participated by reading more than 2000 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 Parts, Chark's Glass & Mirror, Liberty Pumps, Dilcher's Excavation and Construction, Dugan Lawn Care, Somac Inc., H.E. Turner Funeral Home, Wendy's, Darien Lake Amusement Park, Seabreeze Amusement Park, Tops Friendly Markets of Leroy, Target of Batavia, and Wal-Mart of Brockport. Without the generous donations of these merchants, our summer reading program wouldn't be possible.

Thank you to the Library Board of Trustees for successful Barley and Books 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 younger than 18 years old, 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 and on FaceBook too!

Our Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on September 12th to discuss the book Persian Pickle Club by Sandra Dallas. This group meets the 2nd Thursday each month: October 10th, November 7th, and December 12th.

Come join the fun!

Pre-school story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 13th. Join Miss Miranda 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.

Saturday Morning Movie on October 5th at 10:30am. Come enjoy "The Croods" on the Big Screen! Enjoy a treat and drink too! Registration appreciated —

eReader Workshop on October 17th at 7 pm. Join us for this informative workshop on How to borrow eBooks from the Library website onto your eReader. We will have someone here to answer all your technical questions. Registration is recommended.

October 22nd 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.

Saturday Morning Movie on November 2nd at 10:30am. Come enjoy "Monster University" on the Big Screen! Enjoy a treat and drink too! Registration appreciated —

November 19th will be stories of Thanksgiving with Miss Miranda at 6:30pm. After a story or two, there will be a craft, and a fun snack! Registration is recommended.

The National Safety Council Babysitting class will be offered at the Library on Monday November 25th from 12-5. You must be at least 11 years old to attend. Stop by before November 22nd for register and payment. The cost is \$45 and includes a workbook. Class size is limited!

Is your child staying home alone while you are at work? The Library is offering a Home Alone Safety workshop on November 26th from 12-2. This National Safety Council workshop will 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 November 22nd!

The Library will be Closed November 28nd - 30th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Have a Great Thanksgiving!

Remember if you have an E-Reader, you can loan digital books from the Library.

Go to Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org and click on Download Audio and e-reader icon. We also have free music with Freegal music from our website too!

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 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 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-
Nancy Bailey
Library Manager

Thanks to the Bergen community for its support of the recent Barley & Books fundraising event, held on Aug. 3rd at the home of Kristen and Brett Wilcox, which raised close to \$10,000 for the Byron-Bergen Public Library. The event featured a live auction, conducted by Harris Wilcox Inc., which brought in more than \$8,000. Area merchants including Sunnking, Viking Valhalla Room and Rose Garden Bowl, Fullerino's, Ralph and Rosie's and DeltaSonic donated items for the auction. A highlight was the "Heart of Bergen" quilt made by Vicky Truax which was purchased by Mike and Maura Shaffer, co-owners of Gregr'y's Baker. Stop in and see it on display there.

Thanks also to event sponsors Bergen Sales, Northeast Industrial Technologies, Inc. and Triple-0 Mechanical, Inc. and the committee of local volunteers who put the organized the event. Tasting beverages were provided by The Stoneyard Grill and Miller Millworks.

Proceeds from the event will support the Byron-Bergen Public Library. Previous fundraisers have assisted the library in making updates to their facilities and technologies. – Library Board



HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES WENT ON SALE AUGUST 12TH

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 Friday, November 1st, 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 17th – Leroy Village Highway Garage 58 North Street 4:00 – 7:00 PM

September 19th – Pembroke Highway Garage 1145 Main Rd. (Rt.5) 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Town Clerk Office Closings

October 14th – Columbus Day

November 11th – Veteran's Day

November 28th & 29th – 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 31st and are due by January 31st without penalty.

Michele Smith, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

494-1121 Ext. 21

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bergenny.org