



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

September, October, November 2014



Around Town *by Supervisor Donald Cunningham*

Town News ...

As summer winds down, and kids get settled in to school, the town begins its budget preparations for 2015. In the coming year there will be continued emphasis on building improvements and repairs. This has been a focus over the last several years, and a lot of progress has been made by working a little each year to minimize the budgetary impact.

In addition, we'll be budgeting funds to update the Comprehensive Plan for the Town & Village. A special committee has been meeting regularly to review the plan, identify changes, and begin to outline the course of action to update the plan. This is a significant undertaking as it becomes the future vision of our community. The committee has reached a point of needing professional assistance, so the Town and Village will be contracting with a consultant to help move ahead and finalize the plan.

Every year I ask each department to carefully assess their needs and be conservative with budget requests and I'm thankful for the cooperative effort on the part of all department heads. I'm confident the Board will work hard to maintain services at the most reasonable rate and deliver a very effective budget for the town.

Public Water

Chatfield Engineers has put together cost estimates for various areas around the town. This was prompted in part by interest expressed by Byron for developing water districts that might be able to service Bergen. Unfortunately, most of those projects are not moving forward, so the estimates were based on alternative supply routes. As expected, and due to the low residential population in the outlying areas, the estimates came in ranging from \$1386 - \$1724 per year, per unit. With estimated costs at this level, the Town Board has determined it wouldn't take any further action beyond sharing more details with the residents in these areas by direct mail.

Parks

Development at Robins Brook Park has been ongoing for several years and this year the culvert over the creek had fallen into disrepair needing immediate attention. Our highway department, along with the county highway department, worked to make a long term improvement to this creek crossing that provides access to the back portion of the park, a job well done on the part of all involved.

Library

The Byron-Bergen Public Library is a great community resource and is supported in part through the town budget. To fund all their programs, activities, and projects they must seek other financial support and this year they continued their annual fundraiser event in August which was hosted by April & Brian Stone. It was a HUGE success, raising more than \$11,000, and I should mention it is great fun too! Thanks to the Library & committee members for putting on this event, and thanks to April & Brian Stone for graciously hosting it.

From the Desk of Village Mayor *Anna Marie Barclay*

I had the opportunity to share an hour with Dave Henry (District Vice-Commander) and Tom Williamson (Legion Post Commander) to talk about the contributions and activities of the **Sackett Merrill White** American Legion Post No 575 of Bergen. This organization is a generous and supportive asset to our community, and I wanted to communicate with you the work they do.

Including Dave and Tom, there are 138 members in the Bergen post including, Genesee County Commander “Doc” Covey, veterans, sons and daughters of veterans, and the ladies auxiliary. The popularity of our post is due to the welcoming atmosphere visitors find when they arrive.

Our legion is represented in the Park Festival Parade, Heritage Parade in Byron, Memorial Day Parades and ceremonies, cemetery flags, and Flag Retirement Service and Ceremony. The legion held a very moving rededication ceremony in Hickory Park for the WWI Memorial, played an active role in the Memorial Wall at St. Jerome’s in Batavia and the Freedom Wall in Pembroke, act as honor guard with the joint Veteran's Council of Genesee County in over 55 veteran funerals a year, and have been instrumental in the establishment of the National Cemetery in Pembroke.

Their dedication to our community is evident in the work they do in supporting and donating to the National Emergency fund, sponsorship of a team in the Byron-Bergen Youth Recreation program, the Youth Variety Telethon, Bergen Fire Department Service Award (plaque), Genesee County support groups for families, Crossroads, the Patriot Trip, Wounded Warriors, and donations to the Park Festival. The post sponsors three boys to attend Boy’s State (purpose is to inspire and instill in you a deep sense of responsibility and obligation by educating you in the principles of democracy and by teaching you the duties, privileges and rights of American citizenship) and provide scholarships to graduating Byron-Bergen Seniors who exemplify the qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service. Free use of wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches are provided to the public through this organization.

Members contribute time and energy to the maintenance and improvements on their building at 21 N Lake Ave in the village (also provides meeting space to the Vietnam Veterans of America and the United States Navy Seabees), and hold meetings the second Wednesday of the month (September through June).

The work the American Legion accomplishes is supported through membership dues, donations, a holiday raffle, turkey raffle, and “bell jar” contributions.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation’s largest wartime veteran’s service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

The American Legion’s success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

Let’s extend our appreciation to the **Sackett Merrill White** American Legion Post No 575 of Bergen for their generosity and dedication to our community. We are privileged to have them here.





As this is being written, the legislature is in the process of declaring the county nursing home an “excess” property. As discussed in previous newsletters, the legislature has attempted to identify options for eliminating, or at least reducing, the ongoing financial burden that the nursing home has placed on county finances. For the years 2009 through 2013 the deficit totaled \$16,221,595. Unfortunately, every alternative has been explored and ruled out for variety of reasons leaving only one option: declaring the nursing home excess property and attempting to sell it. This alternative is similar to the option Orleans and numerous other counties across NYS have pursued, or are pursuing, because of their inability to continually finance the ongoing deficit. This is only the first step in a long process that will take between 12 to 18 months to complete. For more background information on the nursing home financial issues and steps taken to eliminate the deficits, log on to the county website at www.co.genesee.ny.us or contact me anytime and I will be happy to discuss it.

In September, the legislature will begin the budget process for 2015. Already, there have been preliminary discussions. As reported, the county is committed to a significant increase in its contribution to GCC to meet the funding level required by the state for counties sponsoring community colleges. As always, it will be challenging to balance the budget, operate under the property tax cap, and provide the services that the residents of Genesee County require and deserve.

In closing, I would like to thank and extend best wishes to Sue Conklin, County Historian, who is retiring in September. Sue has been an asset to county residents, as well as many from out of the area, by the assistance she has offered.

SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 6, 2014

Plan ahead before you and/or your loved ones actually need assistance! Information will be provided on services for older adults and their caregivers. Included will be programs designed to help older adults remain independent, such as the Handyman Program, Transportation Services, Home Visitation, Financial Management and Caregiver Counseling.

Come join us at Stone Church Presbyterian Church at noon on October 6, 2014 for a free lunch with a program presented by Dorian Ely, Specialist, Aging Services from the Genesee County Office for the Aging. She will give a short presentation with time for questions and will bring handouts for you to take home. Please plan to attend this valuable presentation.

For more information email Deb at dgodlove1@gmail.com or call Mark at 356-4847.

Free Household Hazardous Waste/Pharmaceutical Collection



When: Saturday, September 20th

Where: Mt. Morris, NY (Livingston County)

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm



Open to residents in Genesee, Livingston and Wyoming Counties

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED!

Call: 585-815-7906 or 800-836-1154

From Historian *Thomas M. Tiefel*

Before I write about what another successful year was had regarding the Harford Livery Museum Complex, I wish to thank everyone that sent me well wishes and came to my aid regarding my accident this spring. I can't express my gratitude enough and as I spent many long weeks in recovery, each and every one of you reminded me of why I live in the best town in NY!!! After a few nuts & bolts, titanium & steel, and the support of friends and family, Bergen can claim that they have the first "bionic historian" Ha Ha! I tried talking the surgeon into installing a hard drive and USB port in my head along with a camera in my eye so I can perform my archival duties at the speed of light, but he didn't go for it, Maybe next year.

With that said, I will start by giving a BIG THANK YOU to the Bergen Historical Society and the Town Board for our new signs!!! Society President Ray MacConnell spearheaded the project and his talented design background really shows on these signs! The Society made the financial contribution and the Town Board along with Zoning Officer Dave Mason cut through all of the "red tape" regarding placement etc. Last, but definitely NOT least, I want to thank Village Dept of Works Supervisor, Ken Steinmetz for taking the time out of his "crazy day" to personally install them! The day before our annual Park Festival, Ken showed up with the signs and a shovel and got them "planted" without a word if complaint. Here in Bergen, we definitely know how to "Git-R-Done"!



As the season winds down and we are in our last few weeks of the museum's hours of operation, I want to remind everyone to "like us on Facebook"! The Harford Livery Museum has its own Facebook page and it will keep you informed of past, present and future events. I try to mix a little information, historical facts, and humor, to keep our little ol' museum interesting so check it out and "Like" it!!! As always, you can contact me at 494-0080 and I will be happy to assist you!

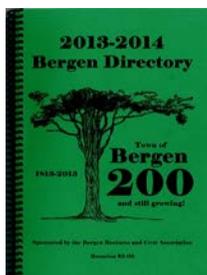
Notes From the Village Historian - Raymond MacConnell

There are (4) four lectures now available to any organization or school class for presentation.

1. Harford House and Miss Potter
2. Bergen's "Little Stinkers" a study of outhouse sites in the village.
3. 50 South Lake Street meets" Mirage". Joseph Santens, Taxidermist
4. Maretta's Doll & Toy Museum, 1958-1965

If you are interested in experiencing a presentation please contact the Village Office (585)494-1513 or email me at roch.bergen@yahoo.com

The 2015-2016 directory information is being gathered if you have any changes please call the Town Clerk at 494-1121 Ext. 21



This year's summer reading program "Fizz-Boom-Read!" was a success!!! Over 205 children participated by reading more than 2020 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, Greg'ry's Bakery, Dr. & Mrs. Maggiulli, Rose Garden Bowl, T.D. Repair, Harris Wilcox Inc., Dugan Lawn Care, Craft Supplies Unlimited, Wendy's, Seabreeze Amusement Park, Tops Friendly Markets of Leroy, Lift Bridge Bookstore of Brockport, Wegman's Brockport, McDonald's Brockport, Target of Batavia, Wal-Mart of Brockport and Yo-Twisters. 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 April and Brian Stone as well as over 100 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 succeed!

Congratulations to Hope Hersom on winning the Friends of the Library Christopher and Victoria Claus Memorial Award. This is her 2nd time winning the \$50 award for writing a book review on a book she enjoyed reading this summer. Hope will also get her name put on a plaque in the Library. Honorable Mentions were Auburn Schwartzmeyer and Sadie Cook. They each received \$25 awards.



Discover us on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and on FaceBook too! We have Zinio –digital magazines, Overdrive digital audio and e-books, and Freegal – digital music. All this is FREE with your valid Library card anytime you have access to the Internet.

Our Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on September 11th to discuss the book The All-Girl Filling Station by Fannie Flag. This group meets the 2nd Thursday each month: October 9th, November 13th, and December 11th. Come join the fun! Pre-school story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 12th. Join Miss Kelsey for a story, craft and a treat! This is recommended for ages 2-5 but younger children are welcome with their parents/guardian. **Registration is appreciated.**

Journalist Nancy E. Lynch, author and publisher of the award-winning social history, Vietnam Mailbag, Voices From the War: 1968-1972, will read and discuss selected war letters from her book at 7 p.m. Oct. 14. After her talk, Lynch will autograph and personalize her book, available at \$40. A companion DVD will also be available at \$10. Registration is not necessary.

Saturday Morning Movie on October 18th at 10:30am. Come enjoy "Mr. Peabody and Sherman" on the Big Screen! Enjoy a treat and drink too! Registration appreciated —

October 28th 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.

Movies on the Big Screen-- November 11th at 2:30pm. Come watch the movie "Maleficent" with your favorite Soldier or Military person! Enjoy a treat and drink too! Registration appreciated —

November 18th will be stories of Thanksgiving with Miss Makayla at 6:30pm. After a story or two, there will be a craft, and a fun snack! Registration is recommended.

The Library will be closed November 27th – 29th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Have a Great Thanksgiving!

Holiday Craft night on December 23rd 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.

(continued)

The Holiday Library hours will be:

Dec. 24th - 10 -5

Thursday Dec. 25th – Saturday Dec.27th Closed

Wednesday Dec. 31st 10-5

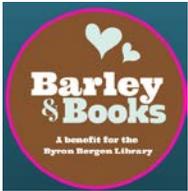
January 1st -- Closed. So Have a Happy and Safe Holiday season!

January 2nd thru 3rd regular Library hours.

If you don't find what you are looking for at the Library, 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 order online, call the Library at 494-1120 or stop in with your request.

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



Barley and Books raises \$11,000 the Byron-Bergen Library!

Barley and Books was held recently at the home of Brian and April Stone and raised more than \$11,000 for the Byron-Bergen Public Library. The event featured tastings of craft beer and wine, live music from Paul J. Cummings, a live auction and raffles.

Featured in the tastings were products from Bergen's Autumn Moon Farm Winery, Brockport's Stoneyard Brewing Company and North American Breweries. A special thanks to Harris Wilcox, Inc. which provided tables, chairs, tents and conducted a live auction of unique items from local merchants and more. Thanks to Barry Miller, who donated wines, as well.

A highlight of the Live Auction was the auctioning of "Lunch with the Ladies" featuring the Rose Garden's Mary Sardou and Stone's Countryside's Louis Stone, which sold for \$650!

Sponsors of the event include Bonduelle, Northeast Industrial Technologies, Liberty Pumps, Gregr'y's Bakery, Northeast Setup, Inc., APA Leagues and the Hesperus Lodge #837. Thanks to local merchants Fullerino's, Rose Garden Bowl, Morgan's, The Byron Hotel, Jake's Pub & Grill, DeltaSonic and SunnKing, Inc. for their support.

Committee members Mallorie Higgins, Brian and April Stone, Mike and Maura Shaffer, Kristen Wilcox and Kelly Hallenbeck worked for months to organize the event, sell tickets, solicit sponsors and make the event a success. The event has raised more than \$30,000 for the library in its four years. The funds have paid for updates to the interior of the library, shelving, new chairs and tables and technological upgrades. To see pictures and to learn more information about the event, find the event's Facebook page as Annual Byron Bergen Public Library Fundraising Event. Thank you to our fantastic community for all the support! – Byron-Bergen Library Board



HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES ARE ON SALE

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 2014-2015 hunting license. Extra DMP permits will be available Saturday, November 1st 9:00 - Noon, The Town Clerk's Office will be open during regular business hours 9:00 - Noon, 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:

September 18th – Pembroke Highway Garage 1145 Main Rd. (Rt.5) 4:00 – 7:00 PM

October 16th – Leroy Village Highway Garage 58 North Street 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Town Clerk Office Closings

October 13th – Columbus Day

November 11th – Veteran's Day

November 27th & 28th – 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

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE ACCEPTING CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS

BEGINNING JULY 1ST

with the processing fee being charged to the customer



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

BERGEN NEWSLETTER
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bergenny.org