



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2016



Editor: Michele Smith

From the Desk of Town Supervisor Donald Cunningham

Town News ...

Spring doesn't seem to be in full swing with the below normal temperatures but seeing lawns being mowed, summer soccer programs underway, and Memorial Day parades we can hopefully look forward to sunny days and summer activities. Make the most of what the town has to offer with outdoor activities at Drews Nature Center, Robins Brook Park, or take a tour of the Bergen Swamp. Or head into the village where the Library, the Harford Barn & Livery, the Disc Golf course, and a variety of parks are also at the disposal of the community. Enjoy these resources and enjoy your summer.

Parks & Outdoor Recreation...

Each year the town board identifies plans for outdoor activities. The last several years have focused on athletic fields for youth recreation at Robins Brook Park. With the final one now complete, these fields will be active with youngsters and are vital to the local youth recreation program in Bergen. We will now focus on other improvements at Robins Brook and Drews Nature Center to enhance these areas for public access and activities. A grant has been secured to provide financial assistance with development, and a committee will be working on a formal master plan to look at adding picnic pavilions, improvements for access, walking trails, and general appearance refinements.

Bergen Park Festival 2016

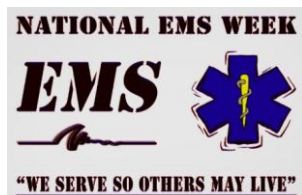
The annual Park Festival is coming June 11th and is always fun for all. Attend, participate, or both, but just DON'T MISS IT! More details in this newsletter.

The Bergen Comprehensive Plan...

Updating the Comprehensive Plan for Bergen has been underway for over two years now. The committee that worked on this project for the duration celebrated the completion of their efforts with a dinner on May 15th and the plan will now go through final review by both the Village and Town Planning Boards before going to the respective legislative boards for adoption. The dynamic make up of the committee, the level of commitment they made, and the determination for good results, produced an excellent plan that we can all be proud of. A great big expression of THANKS goes to the entire committee; Vickie Almquist (co-chair) Village Chair, Village Planning Board; Norm Pawlak (co-chair) Town Chair, Former Member Town Planning Board; Anna Marie Barclay, Village Mayor; Kevin Donovan, Village Trustee, Village Board; Gary Fink, Chairman, Town Planning Board; David Henry, Member, Town Zoning Board of Appeals; William Waldruff, Chairman, Town Zoning Board of Appeals; Tiana Zinter, Secretary/Coordinator. Additional Thanks go to Felipe Oltramari, Genesee County Planning Director, and LaBella Associates.

Honoring Emergency Medical Services...

May 15-21 was National EMS Week and I had the privilege to attend the New York State 2016 EMS Memorial Dedication on May 17th along with Deputy Supervisor Brian and members of the Bergen fire department to honor EMS Chief Barry Miller. It was a wonderful ceremony that recognized Barry and five other EMS responders who lost their life in the service of saving lives. <http://ubmdems.com/2016-ems-memorial-dedication/>





Library hours

Sunday and Monday – Closed

Tuesday 10-12 and 2-8

Wednesday 10-12 and 2-8

Thursday 10-12 and 2-8

Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-1

Closed: Saturday June 11th for Park Festival

Saturday July 2nd for Independence Day

Saturday September 3rd for Labor Day



Open up new worlds- read new authors, try a new recipe book, or get lost in a movie! Check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org. There are databases, Librarian 24/7, TumbleBook Library-e-books for Kids, NOVEL list-readers' advisory, Zinio- digital magazines, Overdrive –e-books and downloadable audio books and Hoopla - eBooks, audio books, video and music are available to you with a valid Library card!

The Library also has a coupon exchange available to patrons! Just bring in your valid coupons you don't use and get ones you will use. The Library has Wi-Fi available as well as 3 computers with printing capabilities for a small fee. Black and white copies and faxes are a service we offer for a small fee too!

Library book sale will be at the Bergen Park Festival on June 11th. There are audio books, movies, children's books and many bestselling authors. Come early to get the best selection! The Library will be closed on June 11th so stop by the tent at the Park Fest! The Library will be hosting the Kelley's Hero's Marching Band at the Bergen Park Festival on June 11th in the parade and right after the parade too with a field show not to be missed! This free performance is made possible with funds from the decentralization program, a regrant program of the NY State Council of the Arts, with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and NY State Legislature and administered by the Genesee-Orleans Arts Council.

Balloon Twister- Mike Heisler will be at the Library tent from 12:30- 2 pm. Stop by to see what he can create and visit the book sale too!

The Library is looking for responsible kids age 11 years old and older to help volunteer during the summer reading program. Stop by and pick up an application now before the end of the school year! You can win prizes for volunteering and get a first look at all the new books and DVDs! Beat the heat in our air conditioned Library and sign up with a friend to join the fun!

Summer is coming!! So is the summer reading program- "On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!" The kick-off will be Tuesday June 21st at 2:00pm with Charlie and Checkers! Come sign up and get started winning prizes for reading. Magic- Music and fun audience participation and lots of laughs too!

The summer reading programs are set up for children 3 years old and up to read and win prizes! Having your children read throughout the summer will help keep up their reading skills for school in the fall. Reading to your preschool child will help them succeed in the coming school years.

If you are not able to make the Kick-off event- stop in any time after June 21st to sign up! Throughout the summer we will be having special story times, exercise fun, crafts, Olympic games, and movie days. For a complete schedule of events check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and friend us on Facebook and Twitter or stop by to pick up a schedule. Lots of fun activities you won't want to miss!



The Library has preschool story time at 10:30am starting Friday July 8th to August 12th. We will be exploring sound, color, and animals! Join the fun this summer with your young children! There's magic in every book!

The Library is planning on offering a Red Cross Babysitting course on June 29th from 9-2pm. Cost is \$45/includes the workbook. If you are interesting, please call the Library to sign up. You must be at least 11 years old to be certified.

Join us at the Byron Heritage Fest on July 26th at 6:30. Library will be hosting along with Byron Heritage Festival the band Koko and The Moon Crickets! Come join the fun, see old friends and enjoy some country music too!

Come check out our newest books the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org to reserve your copy! We also have a great selection of adult and children's audio books that are great to listen to while you are driving to your vacation destination!

The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost, Roadrunner Internet, and interlibrary loans from any library in the NIOGA Library system. If you can't find it at our Library, please ask or check us out on the web at byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org! Stop in soon! For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120. – Nancy Bailey, Library Manager

The **Byron-Bergen Public Library** is pleased to announce that its annual fundraising event, **Barley & Books**, will be held **Saturday, September 17th** at the home of Rich and Sue Pringle in Bergen.



During the past six years this event has raised over to \$40,000 for much-needed updates to the library's facilities and technology, as well as provide additional programming for our community. With these funds the library has been able to provide better service for our community.

Opportunities for sponsorship are available; donations of auction items are being accepted. For up-to-date information visit the Library Fundraising page: [Annual Byron Bergen Public Library Fundraising Event](#)

Memories of my childhood on Rochester St., a series of writings by Village of Bergen Historian, *Ray MacConnell*

Joe and Edith Claude moved to 17 Rochester St. after closing their 5 and 10 cent store on Lake St, next to the bakery. Joe died in 1959. My mom got a phone call one morning from Edith asking for a few extra blankets, "Joe was cold" she said. Yes, he was cold because he had died during the night. Edith had no idea of his passing. She continued to live alone for her remaining years at that address.

We lived at 12 Rochester St. I would get her mail each day and deliver it to her. She would always have her TV on and be in her rocking chair. Upon hearing the front door open on the porch, her head would drop and she faked sleeping. I would call at the door, "Mrs. Claude, Hello", and soon she would wake, and clutch her chest, as if having a heart attack. For this daily event she could get a few extra moments of attention from me and after our conversation each day, she would be fine. She was lonely and somehow as a boy of 12 years, I finally realized that fact.

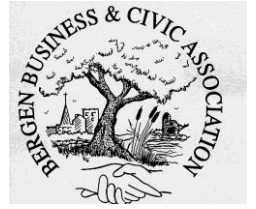
Many times she would be setting her hair for church on Sunday. My family would take her by car. I was always full of questions about her procedure. In a tea cup on a card table in front of her was her secret to "beautiful hair". It was bacon grease, yes, bacon grease! She would comb some strands and then apply the bacon grease, then roll it on a curler. The next day her hair would be a maze of tight curls and they stayed tight 'til the next hair session.

Then there was the time she fainted in church during a hymn. She fell flat on the floor. I was standing on one side of her and my mom on the other. I was stunned. Marge Heizerling, a nurse, rushed to help. Mrs. Claude was fine. What I remember about the hymn was it being "Onward Christian Soldiers." Marge kept singing the hymn as she assisted Mrs. Claude. Marge was not a singer. Upon her death, in 1967, she was buried next to Joe in Mt. Rest Cemetery and her daughter, Pearl. Mary Sackett also was a good neighbor to Edith. Mary and Skip lived to the left of Mrs. Claude.

THE 27th ANNUAL BERGEN PARK FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2016

EVENTS SCHEDULE



FRIDAY – JUNE 10th 5:00 – 6:30 pm Fish Fry sponsored by the Masonic Temple (100 tickets)



with Chef Jim MacConnell and the Bergen Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

\$10.00 Presale tickets available at the Village and Town offices

All Proceeds to benefit our Parks

SATURDAY – JUNE 11th

11:00 am 4th Annual Doug Susat Memorial Car Cruise In - Enjoy the cars until 3:00pm

Craft Vendors

Book Sale---Byron-Bergen Public Library

Food Vendors – all day and evening

Pony Rides

Blinko

Velcro Wall

Bounce House

Petting Zoo

HUGE 5 SPORT ACTIVITY SPONSORED BY THE BYRON-BERGEN SPORTS BOOSTERS!

BOSSY BINGO!!!!!! Sponsored by the Bergen Grange



12:00 noon -Parade down Lake Ave.

(Please contact Michele Smith parade Chair to participate 494-1121 ext. 21)

Parade Marshals – Byron-Bergen Athletes & Coaches

Following parade - Kelly's Heroes band & Mike Heisler the balloon twister Sponsored by the

goArt!

Byron-Bergen Public Library

12:30 pm –

Master Lim's Taekwando Academy Demo

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Pony Rides & Petting Zoo

1:30 – 2:30 pm

"Redemption" Youth Band

2:00 pm

BERGEN IDOL CONTEST

Sponsored by Triple-O Mechanical

DJ – Chris Scibani

4:00 pm- 5:30 PM Chicken B'BQue – PREPARED BY MIKE JOHNSON AND FRIENDS

All Proceeds to benefit our Parks – (served at the back pavilion)

\$10.00 – tickets are available at the Town Hall & Village office



Come enjoy your chicken dinner listening to:

4:00 -7:00pm Caribbean Extravaganza Steel Drum Band



7:30- 10:00 pm Triple Play



Evening music Sponsored by Bonduelle USA, Inc.

This day is sponsored by the Bergen Business & Civic Association

Fun entertainment for the whole Family!

FIREWORKS AT 10PM



The Bergen Park Festival continues as an event to bring our community together with any profits going back to Village & Town Parks



**Please do your animals and the other guests a favor,
and leave your pets home. Thank you.**

Schedule is subject to change.

HARFORD BARN

Open to the public

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Behind Library



Our sincerest thank you to all of the volunteers that make it so special!

Hunting Licenses will be going on sale August 15th, DMP's are on a lottery first come first serve basis as in the past \$10 for 2. Fishing Licenses now run a year from the date of purchase and are available for \$25.

Dog License News: I hate to "hound" you, but 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. If new to the area please transfer your dog with the Town of Bergen. If there is a problem getting an appointment for a rabies vaccination, etc., please call me 494-1121 x 21; if after hours leave a message on my voicemail anytime day or night.

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.



August 18th – Genesee County Fairgrounds 5031 E. Main St., Batavia 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Office Closing

June 11th – Park Festival

July 2nd & 4th – Independence Day Holiday

September 3rd & 5th – Labor Day Weekend



Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00

Saturday 9:00 am - noon

Closed on Thursday

ASSESSMENT NEWS from *Rhonda Saulsbury*

STAR Exemption Changes

As part of the 2016-17 New York State Budget, the STAR school property tax exemption is phasing into a new personal income tax (PIT) credit program. The legislation also allows those property owners eligible for the PIT credit to receive a payment directly from New York State.

If you had a STAR exemption on your property for the 2015-2016 school taxes, you may stay in the STAR program, Basic or Enhanced, as long as you continue to meet the eligibility requirements, and stay in your current home.

- Basic STAR exemptions do not require an annual application. After the initial application, there is no need to reapply unless something changes that may affect your eligibility.
- Enhanced STAR exemptions, as always, require either an annual application with the local assessor or enrollment in the Income Verification Program (IVP).
- If you are in the STAR exemption program, you may either keep your STAR school property tax exemption OR opt for the Personal Income Tax Credit/Check program for future years. You can't have both.
- Once you opt out of the STAR exemption program, you cannot get back in.

If you purchased your home after March 2, 2015, you are **not** eligible for the STAR school property tax exemption, but you may register with New York State for the Personal Income Tax Credit/Check program.

Going forward no new STAR exemptions will be granted. If you buy a new home, you will have to register with New York State for the Personal Income Tax Credit/Check program.

Other property tax exemptions that you may be eligible for such as Veterans, Low Income Senior, Agriculture, etc will still be administered by the local assessor. This legislation does NOT affect any other property tax exemptions. Please feel free to contact me at 494-1484 Wednesday's 10-12 & 1-3 or the Batavia office 343-1729 x207



Genesee County officials have long identified the need for an effective method to “get the word out” in an emergency. The newspapers are delivered a day later and are of no immediate value. The radio stations in Batavia often cannot be received in many corners of the county. Emergency management personnel have relied on Buffalo or Rochester radio and TV stations. A good example is when there is severe weather in one part of the county with no issues in other parts, such as the November 2014 storm that hit the southwest corner of the county with minimal affect on other areas of the county. There was a need to notify residents not to drive into the area and advise those in the area how the storm was progressing, what measures were being taken to assist those stranded and a host of other issues. To address this serious need the Genesee County Emergency Services Office, in conjunction with the Sheriff’s office, local police agencies, highway departments and the health department have developed an app to alert county residents in emergency situations. The app is Ready Genesee and is available for both Apple and Android phones. In addition to emergency information it has general information about various county activities. The introduction of the app has begun at various civic meetings and information is being placed at local libraries and other public facilities. So please download this new app.

By now everyone should be aware of the opiate epidemic plaguing the country. Often people in a rural area like Genesee County think this type of problem is not an issue for them. That is a mistaken belief because it is a real problem in Genesee County. Fortunately the county is blessed with a number of agencies to assist both the addict and those who are affected, such as family members, friends and co-workers. So if you are affected by this epidemic either as a user or non-user please seek out these agencies. A good starting point is the Genesee/Orleans Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (GCASA) with its main office on East Main St in Batavia. Also please note this epidemic does not discriminate by age or economic class.

Lastly, an example of one of those NYS statistics that can drive you nuts: Everyone receives a charge for 911 services on their phone bills. However, for every \$1 paid for this service, only \$0.41 is allocated to support the service. The remainder goes! Enjoy your summer and the many activities and parks that Genesee County has to offer.

Historian News by *Thomas Tiefel*

It's hard to believe we are at the half way point of 2016! They say “time flies when you're having fun” and at your town historian’s office, it certainly is the truth! We have spent the first half of the year reorganizing, refileing, researching, and rebuilding. We also have continued our efforts when it comes to more online exposure. As the age of modern tech advances, we must understand what kind of media resources our youth most frequently use. Our Facebook page, “Harford Livery Museum” is really gaining momentum! As of May 2016, we have 187 members and it’s climbing by the day. As I have stated last year, in most of today’s society, the World Wide Web is king. The number of people who actually read hard copy text (newspapers etc) is rapidly dwindling. Over the winter months, I’ve been investigating how and what can be accessible in reaching out to our next generation of historians. What I have found is, has been right in my own hand all along. The majority of today’s youth are “App Friendly”. Smartphones are here to stay, just as the Apps that make them “smart”. With that said, I reached out to a company that creates Applications for wireless devices that can give you a “virtual museum tour” from anywhere in the world! The content of this App is infinite. A virtual tour of our museum can be created and a professional narrated video tour will be just a click away! We are in the early development stages of this virtual adventure, so stay tuned.

We wish to give a big thank you to Mrs. Marion Partridge and the Bergen Historical Society on the financial donation on behalf of the Richard “Dick” Partridge Memorial Fund. Monies from the fund have been used to purchase a new printer and a new upgraded PC system that will be used for public online genealogy research as well as a database retention program for public access. We also are looking into having a rare Genesee County Historical Atlas rebound thanks to the fund. As the Harford Museum kicks off another surely successful season, some new things are in store to come check out. A few new featured artifacts are on display that haven’t seen the light of day perhaps for as long as 40 years with the acquisition of a new exhibit, “Bergen life during World War 2”. This exhibit is chocked full of local familiar names and I’m sure there will be a few pleasant surprises. We look forward to seeing you!

We have new summer hours. We are open Tuesdays 3pm-5pm, Wednesdays 2:30pm-4:30pm, Saturdays 1pm-4-pm, and Sundays 1pm-4pm. We also honor visits and tours by appointment. The museum will be open from 10am-3pm during Park Festival.

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 we will be happy to assist you! Don’t forget to “like” us on Facebook.



Summer Transfer Station Hours

Wednesdays 5:00 – 7:00 pm July 6th – August 31st

If you are not currently receiving the quarterly Town of Bergen Newsletter and want to be added to the email or snail mail list please send your request to the Town Clerk's office P.O. Box 249 or 494-1121 x21.

Name _____ Address _____

Email _____

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OCCUPANT
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