



# TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2021



Editor: Michele Smith

## Town News ... From the Desk of Town Supervisor *Ernest Haywood*

We are looking forward to many good things later this spring in the Town of Bergen: warmer weather, a pandemic under control and a new water district ready to start construction.

The Water District moves forward steadily. In January, we converted our initial \$1,000,000 BAN receiving a very favorable interest rate of .49% from Green County Commercial Bank. We have obtained most of the easements needed from private property owners, however, there are a few outstanding easements and we are reaching out to those property owners. If you happen to be one of them and need additional assistance completing the easement, please let us know

Once we have secured all easements, Rural Development will allow us to proceed to bidding. The bidding process it takes about a month. Remember, this project is so large that we are making it two projects and so there will be two contracts. The

same bidder could win both, we will have to wait and see. After the Town Board awards the water district construction contracts, it takes another month or so to get Rural Development's approval to schedule the Pre-Construction meeting. At

about that time, most likely in June or July, residents who want to connect to the water will start having tasks to complete. You will be asked to meet with our engineers to choose the location of your service. As we get closer to this part of the project, we

will let you know how you will select your service location with our engineers. You will also have to enroll with the Monroe

County Water Authority. Due to COVID, MCWA is not conducting enrollments in person at this time. All enrollments will have to be completed by mail. MCWA will mail enrollment packets to property owners in the district with detailed instructions.

If you have not begun to think about hiring a plumber to run the water line from the road to your house, now might be a good time to start. Sometimes neighbors can band together and hire a plumber who will give a discounted price to the group. The packet the MCWA sends out with have instructions for your plumber to follow.

In January, the Town Board adopted a Public Employer Emergency Health Plan, which is basically a plan to deal with another pandemic, if one were to occur. All municipalities were required to adopt a plan by April 1. Bergen's plan defines what services are essential and how they will be continued during a health emergency. It also covers how we will keep our employees safe and how we will communicate to the public during the public health emergency time period.

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed new Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Gerald Wood. Gerry comes to us with a great deal of experience and he can be reached at 490-4152 or by email at [zeo-ceo@bergen.org](mailto:zeo-ceo@bergen.org). In a related matter, we have been working on updating our Building Permit Fee Schedule and Zoning Fee Schedule for several months and we plan to adopt the revised schedules on February 23.

Stay Healthy and have a Happy Spring!



2020 is in the books! As most would say, “Thank Goodness”! To say that 2020 was a challenge for all would be an understatement. That was no different for all levels of Government as well. We are looking forward to continued progress throughout 2021 as we get back on track.

The County’s primary focus throughout the past 11 months has been the health and safety of residents. The Health department has done an exceptional job of navigating the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This has tied up an incredible amount of resources for the County, however the leadership has done a tremendous job of developing a very successful and lean free testing site throughout the Winter and now moved to the Vaccination clinic. These operations are well oiled machines run very efficiently by the County staff from all departments and amazing community volunteers. We have a long way to go with vaccinations and just like every other Community in the Country we need additional supply. Positivity rates continue to trend downwards as well which is a welcome trend. Hoping we are seeing the light!

We have re-ignited the discussion on our County Jail situation. Fortunately, the Governor has opened the door for an opportunity for a joint Jail with other Counties in his budget. We have re-engaged with our consultant SMRT to reassess our bed needs for Orleans and Genesee Counties and the impact of bail reform on the system. Phase 2 of the County’s water infrastructure project continues to progress. The County continues to focus on upgrading and sizing the water infrastructure to ensure we meet the demands of the growing desire for every resident to have access to quality water and the economic impact of our business community to have their future needs met. Master planning continues on Phase 3 as we attempt to project water needs 10-20-50 years out.

We continue to monitor the potential impact of what may come out of Washington DC on a federal stimulus package. The NYS budget has two versions, one with significant stimulus to replace COVID-19 related revenue loss and one without much stimulus. Either direction this leads us will have a significant impact on our ability to fund County operations or potentially invest in necessary projects going forward. Much more to come as we look to forward to progressing our way through 2021 and into 2022. We look forward to continue to working with all our partners in all levels of government to provide the best service with the least amount of financial impact on our taxpayers. As always, feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns you may have.

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**Town Clerk News** *by Michele Smith*



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

**ANTI-RABIES CLINICS:** for updates <https://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/health/rabiesclinics>

**2021 Town & County Tax Payment** - Last day to pay Town & County taxes is Tuesday, March 31<sup>th</sup> with 2% penalty, any taxes not paid by that date will be turned over to Genesee County Treasurer, any payments can be left in the drop box after hours. .

**Office Closings**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Easter

May 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> – 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

Did you know? The Library is OPEN!

- The Library is Bigger than it Looks-The Byron-Bergen's interlibrary loan service gives you access to collections at other libraries! Being part of the Nioga Library system gives you opportunities to interloan books from Niagara, Orleans, and Genesee County Libraries. Just check out our online catalog with your valid Library card unlock millions of books, audio books, music CD's, and DVD's available to you! Can't wait for delivery to the Library? Take your card to other libraries in the system and check it out yourself!
- The Library has several free options for online and downloadable books you can read on your computer, smart phone, dedicated eBook reader, or tablet. Just go to the [Byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://Byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) website and click on OverDrive/Libby or Hoopla to find out more!
- That you have access to over 80 downloadable magazines that you can read on your computer, smart phone, dedicated e-Book reader, or tablet? Check us out on the OverDrive/Libby (RB digital) button at the Library website. You can catch up on past months of your favorite magazine too!
- The Library is more than just books – there are movies and music, programs for all ages, book sales, and much more. Check us out at [www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org](http://www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org) or “Friend” us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

We have New York tax forms available here! You also can go to the website at [www.nystax.gov](http://www.nystax.gov) and go to forms to print from home. If you need Federal tax forms, they are available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

Stop in after March 2<sup>nd</sup> to pick up a St. Patrick's Day take and make craft during regular Library hours! Spring/Easter Take & Make Craft will be available after March 23<sup>rd</sup>!

***National Library week is April 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> --Stop in and take out 3 or more books and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate!***

The Library has Spectrum Internet service available as well as Wi-Fi. The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost. Interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system at our catalog [www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org). If you can't find it, please ask! Stop in soon! For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Happy Reading!

Nancy Bailey -- Library Manager



**EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 PM  
THE BERGEN BUSINESS & CIVIC ASSOCIATION SPONSORS**

**THIS ANNUAL EVENT AT THE HICKORY PARK IN  
THE VILLAGE OF BERGEN.**



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