



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

September, October, November 2021



Editor: Michele Smith

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF TOWN SUPERVISOR *Ernie Haywood*

We have been busy moving our water project forward following the bid opening in May. As the bids were over budget (due to several COVID-related factors), I immediately filed an Application for Federal Assistance and Cost Overrun Request with the USDA Rural Development. On June 17, Rural Development offered us an additional \$577,000 in grant monies and a \$950,000 low interest loan.

The Town accepted the funding offer from Rural Development. We held a public hearing on July 13 to hear comments regarding the increase in the total project cost from \$8,958,000 to \$10,485,000 and a total borrowing of \$6,850,000.

The new annual debt service is expected to be \$643.04 per year per EDU. Single family homes have an EDU of 1. Most vacant land has an EDU of .5. The original project had an annual debt service charge estimated at \$557.04 per EDU. That means the annual debt service cost to the typical property owner will be \$86 more than originally estimated.

On August 17, the Bergen Town Board held a special meeting to approve an application to the NYS Comptroller for an increase in the cost of the new water district. The approval of our application from the Comptroller is expected to take several months. Pending their approval our plan is to start construction by the first of the year.

We are beginning work on the 2022 budget. Unfortunately, we are once again facing a loss of funding from the County. Since 2020 we have seen our anticipated revenue from the County (sales tax /voluntary contribution) reduced. The impact of the reductions for 2020 was \$100,924.00, and in 2021 it was \$192,728. It is anticipated our 2021 reduction will be between \$194,171 and \$346,750. This loss of revenue has and will continue to have a significant impact on the budget.

At the August 24th Town Board meeting a decision was made to close the Transfer Station permanently on December 31, 2021. Based upon declining usage, increased cost and a significant deficit the Town Board voted to close the transfer station.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to remain vigilant regarding COVID. If you haven't received a vaccine yet, there are many opportunities available by calling 344-2580 or visiting gohealthny.org.

Best wishes for a happy end of summer.



1. This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866)-632-9922 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 2050-9410 or by fax (202)690-7742 or e-mail program.intake@usda.gov



As the Summer wraps up, the County continues to monitor and put its efforts into supporting the resources needed by our health department to deal with ongoing issues related to the pandemic. We continue to vaccinate and are starting to make plans to support an anticipated effort for vaccine boosters coming this Fall, as well as ensuring kids are back to school this Fall, safely following the State's ever-changing guidelines. The County recently had an appreciation luncheon for the 400+ volunteers that supported the testing and vaccination clinics in Genesee and Orleans Counties over the past 9 months. These clinics would have never been able to administer all those tests and vaccines without the tremendous time and efforts these Community volunteers put in. A huge thank you to all those volunteers and County employees! We recently passed the restated sales tax agreement. With this agreement in place, the County is authorized to distribute \$10,000,000 of annual net sales tax received by the County to be divided among all the Towns and Villages. This ensures a stable source of funding for the Town and Village of Bergen for the next 40 years to rely on for their budget.

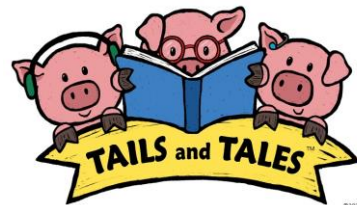
As everyone knows we have a new Governor, Kathy Hochul. We at the County are more optimistic to work with this Governor over the prior one because of her long-time experience in local government as well as being a native of Western New York. Time will tell!

We are progressing on the timeline for the new County Jail. Updated bed needs and construction costs have been received. The jail committee and legislature has recommended that we move forward with the 184 bed facility that was recommended by the consultant group. This is actually equivalent to a 144 bed working capacity because of the various types of inmate classifications. Construction costs did go up but not as high as anticipated. There is much work to do, however at this point we are aiming for ground breaking in mid to late 2022.

Water and broadband infrastructure continue to be a topic of discussion. Progress is continuing on the Phase 2 water project while the planning for Phase 3 is moving forward as well. The Highway crews have been busy this Summer with paving, bridge and culvert work. Preliminary work has begun on our 2022 County budget. Can't believe its Fall already! As always, feel free to contact us anytime with any questions or concerns you many have.



This year's summer reading program "Tails and Tales!" was a success!!! Over 130 children participated! 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 Inc., Chark's Glass & Mirror, Miller's Millworks, Wal-Mart of Batavia, Rochester Museum & Science Center and Target –Batavia, Without the generous donations of these merchants, our summer reading program wouldn't be possible.

Congratulations to Grace Clark on winning the Friends of the Library Christopher and Victoria Claus Memorial Award. She won the \$50 award for writing a book review on a book she enjoyed reading this summer. Grace will also get her name put on a plaque in the Library. Honorable Mention were Rena Wilson. She received \$25 award.

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 10-1 & 2-7

Wednesday 10-1 & 2-7

Thursday 10-1 & 2-7

Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-1



Discover us on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and on Facebook and Twitter too! We have Overdrive/Libby digital audio, digital magazines and e-books, and Hoopla – digital music-audio/e-book and movies. All this is FREE with your valid Library card.

Our Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on September 9th at 6:30pm. This group meets the 2nd Thursday each month: October 14th, November 11th, and December 9th. Come join the fun!

Toddler/Pre-school story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 17th. Join us 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

Teen Boxes at your Library - grades 6 and up!

The boxes will contain 2-3 Library books & some special goodies and/or activities for you to keep! All you need to do is stop in and fill out the short questionnaire & by September 15th! Then you can pick up your Teen box anytime the week of September 27th during Library hours.

Tech time at the Library! Call to set up an appointment for Wednesday during regular Library hours. Our staff can help you set up the many different Library related apps and answer basic questions on your devices and e-readers. Call today for an appointment!

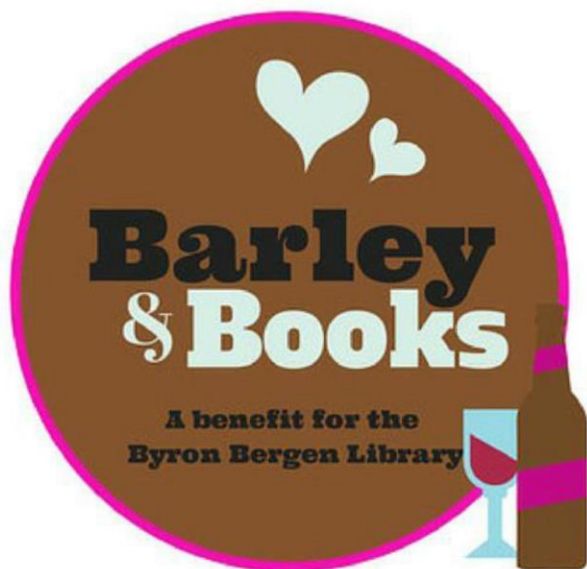
The library has copy /fax service for a small cost, Spectrum Internet on computers, Wi-Fi, and interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system. Check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org or stop in and we will assist you! You can also friend us on Facebook and Twitter 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

**THE BERGEN TRANSFER STATION/ RECYCLING CENTER WILL BE
CLOSING PERMANENTLY DECEMBER 31, 2021.**

**BASED UPON DECLINING USAGE, INCREASED COST AND A
SIGNIFICANT DEFICIT THE TOWN BOARD VOTED TO CLOSE THE
TRANSFER STATION.**



**Hosted by Mark & Wanda Swanson
7620 Swamp Road, Bergen**

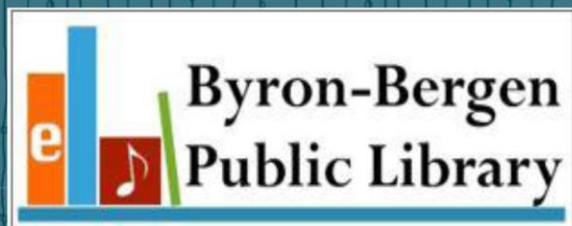
Join Us For:

A LIVE AUCTION

with one-of-a-kind, unique items.

Basket Raffle

**Wine, Beer, Cider Tasting
Refreshments and Food**



Did You Know? The Byron Bergen Public Library loaned 20, 204 books in 2020.

**Tickets: \$20 pre-sale
\$25 at the door**

Tickets available at the Byron-Bergen Library, or call 494-1120 for info.

For more details, check out our Facebook Event page: Search Annual Byron Bergen Public Library Fundraising Event

Live music by the John Cummings Family

Auction run by Harris-Wilcox

HUNTING 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 2021-2022 hunting license. **Extra DMP’s will be available starting Monday, November 1st** on a first come first serve basis also 2/\$10 or free if first set was already purchased.



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 along 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 16th – Genesee County Fairgrounds 5031 E. Main St. Batavia 4:00 – 7:00 PM
October 14th – Genesee County Fairgrounds 5031 E. Main St. Batavia 4:00 – 7:00 PM



Town Clerk Office Closings:

- September 4th & September 6th – Labor Day Weekend
- October 11th – Columbus Day
- November 26th – Thanksgiving Holiday



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





Election Day Tuesday, November 2nd

(District 1 & 2 at the Town Hall 6:00 am – 9:00 pm)

**Voter Registration and absentee ballot forms
available at the Town Clerk's Office**

Early Voting at County Building #2 - 3837 West Main St., Batavia

Saturday, October 23 – 12pm-5pm

Sunday, October 24 – 12pm-5pm

Monday, October 25 – 9am-5pm

Tuesday, October 26 – 12pm-8pm

Wednesday, October 27 – 12pm-8pm

Thursday, October 28 – 9am-5pm

Friday, October 29 – 9am-5pm

Saturday, October 30 – 12pm-5pm

Sunday, October 31 – 12pm-5pm

BERGEN NEWSLETTER

10 HUNTER STREET

BERGEN, NY 14416

bergenny.org