



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2023



Editor: Michele Smith

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

The Town of Bergen Water Improvement Benefit Area ([WIBA](#)) No. 1 Project has been substantially completed by -both Morsch Pipeline, Inc. and Finline Pipeline, Inc. Water main and water services have been installed and the Monroe County Water Authority has placed the entire Bergen WIBA No. 1 in service and is providing water to all who have signed-up. If you have not yet activated your service, contact the MCWA as follows:

Virginia Smith at (585) 442-2001 x 229 or Virginia.Smith@mcwa.com or
Mary Johns at (585) 442-2001 x 407 or Mary.Johns@mcwa.com

Both Contractors will return in late Spring to complete restoration of yards and driveways. This may include rockhounding, grading, paving and seeding. If there are any items of concern relating to settlement of driveways or restorations of yards, please contact: Scott D. Mattison, P.E. of the MRB Group at (585) 381-9250 (office) or by email at Scott.Mattison@mrbgrou.com.

This public water project has been a tremendous undertaking for the Town of Bergen. Without a \$3.6 million dollar grant and a loan interest loan, this \$10.5 million project would not have been affordable to property owners. We are appreciative of the patience of residents during the long process. It is satisfying to know that Bergen residents who were in desperate need of a safe, adequate water supply now have it. And for those who simply wanted the convenience of public water, we are glad that it is now available to you.

I continue to advocate for equitable sharing of sales tax by Genesee County. More than three years ago, Genesee County imposed a reduction and then a freeze on the portion of the sales tax shared with towns and villages. Projections of the impact to town taxes in the future are grim, and it isn't just the Town of Bergen that is impacted it is every town and village in the county. Last year, I presented a resolution at the last Genesee Association of Municipalities (GAM) to appoint a sales tax/revenue sharing committee consisting of up to six (6) Supervisors and or Mayors and three (3) county legislators for the purposes of discussing the concerns, alternatives and recommendations for further sharing of county resources with the towns and villages of Genesee County. The resolution passed unanimously. The result has been a meeting with county officials and a discussion on sharing the County's additional revenues with the Towns and Villages. I am still advocating for a long-term commitment so that local municipalities can budget and plan effectively.

As part of the Park Master Plan, we are pursuing funding for improvements at Robbins Brook Park that may include accessible restrooms, bocce courts and other items. We have engaged the MRB Group to prepare an application to New York State's Consolidated Fund Application and Environmental Protection Agency. The cost of the application writing is funded in large part by a \$5,000 grant from Genesee County. The park grant application is due in July and it may be some months after that before we know if we have been successful.

A special thank you to Richard Howard for his years of service on the Board of Assessment Review. Dick recently resigned from the post and we have appointed Penne Vincent to his seat.

Stay warm and safe this winter season!

Ernie Haywood, Supervisor



With another Winter season starting to be in our rear-view mirror, we have much to look forward to including the nicer weather. We are getting very close to announcing County wide broadband opportunities for every address throughout in the County. We are in final negotiations of the contract as well as getting all the detail about the specific locations so we ensure we do not miss any. We are committed to this initiative and have set aside funds to do so. We continue to pursue grants for this as well.

Our Legislative Chairwoman Shelley Stein spent some time in Washington DC this past week advocating for dollars to help with our massive water infrastructure project that we need to deal with. She met with Congresswoman Claudia Tenney, Senator Chuck Schumer and Senator Kirstin Gillibrand's offices with promising leads. This \$150 million project to ensure we have adequate water for future generations is the most expensive and important project the County has ever undertaken. All hands are on deck and every stone will be turned to find dollars and keep as much of this burden off of the taxpayers. Phase 2 should be wrapping up this Summer and Phase 3 basis of design and engineering work is ongoing.

The new County jail construction project continues to progress through the Winter months. The pre-constructed concrete cells continue to travel into the site and be set on a daily basis. The central administrative and support building is all enclosed and is progressing very nicely. The project remains on time and on budget. Substantial completion is expected to be January 2024 and will be ready for inmates by March '24.

Mark your calendars, the Genesee County Airport will be hosting the most significant airshow in the area in 25 years on Labor Day Weekend, September 2-3. Wings Over Batavia will feature World Champion aerobatic performers, historical warbirds and modern military demonstrations. As always, feel free to reach out to me with any comments or concerns.

Christian Yunker

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: May 18th Genesee County Fair Grounds 4:00 - 6:30 pm

2023 Town & County Tax Payment - Last day to pay Town & County taxes is Friday, March 31st if not paid by that date they will be turned over to Genesee County Treasurer, any payments can be left in the drop box after hours.

Office Closings

April 7th – Good Friday
May 29th – Memorial Day



Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 5:00
Friday 8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00
Closed on Thursday & Saturday

Did you know?

- 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, audiobooks, magazines, music and movies you can read on your computer, smart phone, dedicated eBook reader, or tablet. Just go to the Byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org website and click on OverDrive/Libby and Hoopla to find out more!
- 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 or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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

Library has Pre-K/Toddler story time for children at 10:30am on Fridays until March 31st for the winter session and will begin the spring session on April 14th. We enjoy a different themed story each week with a related craft and a snack! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library.

Come to the Library and participate in a fantasy, tabletop role-playing game like Dungeons & Dragons on Saturday, March 18th at 10am! This will be the start of a new campaign—all are welcome—run by Dungeon Master Jacob Seward. Registration by Friday, March 17th is appreciated.

Stop in after March 2nd to pick up a St. Patrick's Day Take & Make craft during regular Library hours! Spring/Easter Take & Make Craft will be available after March 21st!

Book discussion group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. March 9th we are reading Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict. Come join the discussion and meet new people! We enjoy lively conversation about the book and refreshments too! Call or stop by the Library to reserve your copy of our current book.

Join us for St. Patrick's Day scavenger Hunt the week of March 14th -18th during regular Library hours. Stop in with your green on! Win a prize!

BINGO! St. Patty's day theme! Come join us March 16th at 5pm- Enjoy a pizza party, win prizes, and have some fun! Register by March 14th please by calling or stopping in.

New Book Club starting at the Gillam Grant Community Center! March 21st at 10:30 am. Our 1st meeting will be a Book Talk featuring book selections – you decide what to read as a group. Program is FREE – registration is appreciated by calling the Library.

Chair Yoga at 4pm and Beginning Yoga at 6pm on March 21st! Join our certified instructor Colleen – sign up today by March 17th – space is limited - - Wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle and mat if you have one. Donations to the instructor are appreciated.

Spring Break Happenings!! April 4th—April 8th!!

Movie Day -Tuesday, April 4th– Join us for the movie *Puss in Boots the Last Wish*- Rated PG. Enjoy popcorn and refreshments too! Registration by noon on April 4th is appreciated.

Easter Peep Bunny Craft – April 5th at 4pm! Come make an edible Bunny Peep House with an assortment of yummy craft supplies. Sign up by Friday, March 31st—space is limited.

Adinkra T-Shirts—April 6th at 5pm! In this workshop learn the history and meaning of Adinkra symbols found throughout West Africa, and create your own Adinkras T-Shirt printing! Let us know what T-Shirt size (small, medium, large, or extra-large) beforehand and registration necessary by Friday, March 31st to join. Space is limited so sign up soon. This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

goART!

Save the date of April 19th for our annual pre-school concert! Join our smaller patrons at the Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church at 9:30am for music and fun with “Ancient Voices”—a World Music percussion and wind duo. Enjoy a wide array of instruments and music weaving together tradition and improvisation. No Registration required! Just come join the fun! This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

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Tea time with Julie Fee on Saturday, April 22nd at 11am! Have you ever wanted to grow a tea garden? We'll be planting a few herbs to get you started, plus taste testing some of the herbs you'll be growing! This hands-on class will teach you: How to propagate your herbs; Planting conditions: Harvesting and Dehydrating Tips to make a great Cup of Herbal Tea. Bring your favorite tea cup. Garden gloves optional. Class size limited sign up by April 18th to reserve your spot.

National Library week is April 25th-29th --Stop in and take out 3 or more books and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate!

Join the Library and the Bergen Historical Society on May 4th at 7pm – Join Bruce Schwendy as he presents “The Three Erie Canals History and Folklore”. Refreshments and meeting to follow.

Join Leslie Hill for a Succulent Pot Workshop on either May 10th at 6:30 and May 13th at 10:30am. What better Mother’s Day gift than making a succulent pot for her or make one for yourself. Come and learn how to take care of these beautiful plants so they thrive for years. As a bonus, I’m including one-of-a-kind handmade gift tags to attach to your gift! Cost is \$5 – sign up by May 5th. Space is limit call or sign-up at <https://www.sosnflowers.com/shop>. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

goART!

Succulent Prom Ring or Boutonniere Workshop –Two different days to choose from: May 13th at 11am and May 17th at 7pm. Stand out at prom this year and make your own Succulent Ring or Succulent Boutonniere at this DIY Workshop. We provide all of the supplies and coaching you need so your ring will be unique compared to what your friends make. These are faux succulents so you have a keepsake to hang on to, and they are durable compared to fresh succulents. The ring base is adjustable so it can fit any finger size. Cost is \$10 – space is limited so sign up at the library or sign up at <https://www.sosnflowers.com/shop>

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goArt!

History, Culture and Music of the Ukraine presented by Marianna Gonzalez on June 1st at 7pm. Come learn about who the people are and gain a deeper understanding of their culture. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New Library book sale will be at the Bergen Park Festival on June 10th. There are audio books, movies, children's books and many bestselling authors. The Library will be closed on June 10th so stop by the tent at the Park Fest!

Library is hosting the Mark Time 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 project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

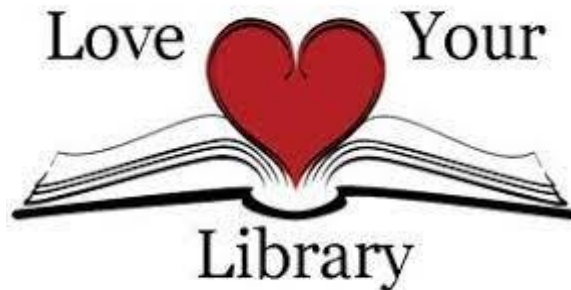
goArt!

The Library has Spectrum/Time Warner Internet service available. The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

goArt!

. Interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system at our catalog

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.



Lastly, a great way to show your love of the Library and win prizes from local businesses is by entering this contest--

What is your favorite thing about your Byron-Bergen Public Library? Why? (Forms available at the Library.)

Open to all ages. Ends 4/28/2023

Happy Reading!

Nancy Bailey -- Library Manager



**EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST AT 1:00 PM
THE BERGEN BUSINESS & CIVIC ASSOCIATION SPONSORS**

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

(FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUR THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE)



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