

Town of Byron Newsletter



Volume 1, Number 52

Supervisor

As has been publicized, the Town of Byron was selected for a 280 MW Solar Farm containing a 20MW battery Storage Facility. The project will be handled by Article 10 since it is over 25MW. The town will have input since it falls into an Article 10 category. Input on the solar farm will be compiled from the town residents. For your input to be utilized, it's important that you attend any upcoming Town Board meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month or a Planning Board meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month each commencing at 7:00 pm.

At present, water district number eight construction has commenced with anticipated completion date of July 31, 2019. Please contact the town office if you have not received your notice with the timeline and what's needed to have an established connection provided for your property.

With Spring around the corner, the Parks Committee would welcome your help in cleaning up the Fireman's Park and Trestle Park of accumulated debris. Some flowers may need to be planted to brighten up the areas. Please give George Squires, the Parks committee chairman a call at 585-813-2463.

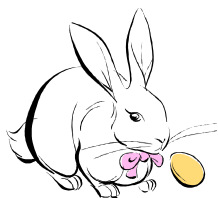
Have an enjoyable and safe Spring season.

Roger V.V. Rouse
Supervisor

Town Clerk

As a reminder, taxes are collected at the Town Hall through March 31, 2019, and can be paid by cash, check, charge or money order. After March 31st, you will need to contact the Genesee County Treasurer's Office regarding payment.

Visit our website at www.byronny.com for information, and don't forget to like us on Facebook.



Happy Spring,
Debra Buck-Leaton, Town Clerk

Highway Superintendent

Hello again ...as of this writing it is the month of March. Although not done, hopefully the end is near. This brings on snowmelt and signs of wing damage in lawns. Every year I remind homeowners if it came from us we will try to fix it. It is a process and someone comes first and someone comes last. We go road by road until we have it all restored. Please be patient.

Next, I would like to bring attention to the Highway Dept. in regards to water projects. It has been brought to my attention there is a lot of misinformation in regards to this. First off, the Highway Department has no role in the installation of water lines. The Town Board entered into a contract with a private contractor to install the service. The placement of pipe, hydrants, and machinery is all done by the contractor and his employees. The work on the project is overseen by a representative of the engineering firm. The project is separate from anything the Highway Department and its employees do. If there are signage problems or lack of flagmen call the engineering firm, contact the contractor, or call the Sheriff's dept. or State police. I have no authority over this project. The Highway Dept. doesn't own any of the pipe and it is the contractor's responsibility for the pipe. When the installation and construction "stalled" I received an email from the town's attorney not to speak of the project pending potential litigation. I have not spoken of this and have no knowledge of the project's status at this point. It is not the Highway Department's responsibility to clean up something the contractor was told to do and any other questions should be directed to the town's attorney. If the Highway Department involves itself in the process it opens itself up for potential legal problems.

Lastly, I would just like to post that I came into office January 1, 2016. The first year I ran off the existing budget and its tax rate. Since I have had to run my own budget the tax rate has declined or leveled off. 2017... 2.5626 2018 ...2.5283 and 2019 ...2.5227. I hope this would also clear up some questions raised to me. If in the future you need something please call and if it is something I have information on I will share it. If I don't I can't....

Respectfully,
Brian

Byron-Bergen Imaginary Library

The Byron-Bergen Imaginary Library is celebrating three years of providing free monthly books to our littlest resident (0-5). We would like to thank the following for supporting our Fall 2018 letter campaign (as of October 10th): Friends of Bergen, Liberty Pumps, Barclay Fine Woodworking, Bergen Historical Society, Ed Sharp and Sons, Gerrard Family, Paul's Repair, BBKA, Scotts Miracle Grow, Rose Garden, Pumpkin Hill Veterinary Clinic, Pocock Repair, Dugan Lawn Care, Sharyn Stevens, Marian Partridge Grace Gallivan. This program is completely funded by community businesses and individual donations. We welcome all donations and registrations. For more information contact Donna Gerrard 548-7380 or Anna Marie Barclay 494-1979.

Park Committee Survey

BYRON PARK COMMITTEE PUBLIC SURVEY – PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO BYRON TOWN CLERK

How should the West Shore Trail be used in Byron?

- a. walking/ hiking only
- b. multiple use (check allowed uses)
 - walking/ hiking
 - biking
 - snowmobiling
 - horseback riding
 - ATVs, UTVs, ROVs, dirt bikes

Which sports activities should our parks provide facilities for?

- a. tennis
- b. soccer
- c. basketball
- d. baseball/softball
- e. disc golf
- f. pickle ball
- g. none of the above
- h. other _____ (please specify)

How do you use our parks currently?

- a. picnics
- b. basketball
- c. kids go to summer recreation program
- d. play tennis
- e. fishing
- f. walking/hiking
- g. walking the dog
- h. riding ATV, UTV, ROV, dirt bike
- i. nature observation
- j. canoeing, kayaking
- k. kids play on playground

How often do you use our parks?

Should Byron consider more parks?

- a. South Byron
- b. North Byron
- c. somewhere else - please specify _____

Should Byron consider more facilities at existing parks?

- a. water and restrooms at Trestle Park
- b. water and restrooms at Turtle Park
- c. improved playgrounds
- d. additional picnic pavilions



Genesee County Legislator, Robert Bausch

When the NYS Legislature is in session, the assembly and senate approve new programs or mandates and the governor signs them with the anticipation that local taxpayers will pick up the cost. To close the state three billion dollar and growing 2019-2020 budget gap, the governor requested approval to withhold from the counties internet sales taxes that the state collects and then should remit to the counties. Currently, 90% of the NYS counties' property tax revenues pay for state services, now the governor is proposing taking sales tax revenue as well. Genesee County did not budget any extra revenue in anticipation of additional internet sales tax revenue so the impact should be minimal. But this action will set an unfortunate precedent. The current session of the state legislature has already cost the counties significant amounts with the change in election laws being an unfunded mandate with no process in place to meet the law.

The jail project continues to move forward. A recommendation to award the architectural and engineering contract was presented to the Public Service and Ways & Means Committees and was approved. The contract was then forwarded to the full legislature and approved.

Phase 2 of the water project is progressing. Land acquisitions are complete and the bidding process should begin within the next two months. The initial conceptual design for Phase 3 has started.

Genesee County and the City of Batavia passed resolutions requesting the state for special legislation authorizing a forty year sales tax agreement. This would allow the financing for the new jail and the water projects to move forward.

On recommendation of the District Attorney and all the local police agencies, the legislature is considering a local "pawn shop law". The proposed law is very specific and similar to laws in neighboring counties. There has been some discussion as to its effect on garage sales, antique dealers and others. The proposed law will be crafted so these businesses will be exempt. The only existing business that will be affected is already complying with similar laws in other counties.

As has been well published, a two to four thousand acre solar farm is proposed in the Byron area. The approval process for this project will be very lengthy. The county will have a very limited role in that process.

Lastly, as announced last month, I am not seeking reelection. It has been an honor to serve the residents of Elba, Byron and Bergen on the county legislature.

Historical Society

The Town of Byron was founded in 1820 and 2020 makes it 200th anniversary– which is something we all are very fortunate enough to experience. Byron Historical Society along with the Town Clerk's office are seeking public input with the planning of the upcoming bicentennial celebration which will be held on August 15, 2020.

A planning committee will be formed to create sub committees, implement activities, and promote celebration festivities for the Town of Byron's Bicentennial; all community members are invited to attending our first committee meeting to be held at the Byron Town Hall on Thursday, March 28th @ 7pm.

We look forward to seeing you at this planning committee meeting.



Cemetery Association

Everyone is probably looking forward to spring after all the snow, ice and wind that we had this winter. Consider taking a walk around the Byron Cemetery when the weather gets nicer. There are many familiar families laid to rest there and several unique head stones. If you choose to take your dog for a walk in the cemetery please keep them on a leash and kindly clean up after them. As spring approaches many people choose to put mementoes on graves. Please remember to place decorations, flowers, flags, etc. in line with the grave markers. This will make the task of mowing the grass a bit easier. A reminder that planting live plants (flowers, bushes) need the permission of the Cemetery Association. They require maintenance for years that need to be considered before planting them. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated with these matters.

The Annual meeting of the Byron Cemetery Association will be held at 7pm at the Byron Town Hall on Wednesday, April 17th. Anyone owning a plot in the cemetery is invited to attend this meeting. The Byron Cemetery Association welcomes new members. To join this group you must be a plot owner or have a family member who owns a plot. Please consider attending the Annual Meeting to observe the workings of this group of volunteers. If you would like to become a Trustee, please contact President Kim Dewey at 585-356-2256. It is a very interesting and educational endeavor.

John and Donna Durand, Cemetery Superintendents, would gladly walk through the cemetery to show prospective grave sites. Many plots are available. Preplanning can ease family members' minds when this decision has been made in advance. Some advice for those who have already purchased a cemetery plot - keep the deed in a safe place and inform family members of the deed and the plot location. Pets are also welcome at the Byron Cemetery. Many people feel that their pets are members of the family and may choose to have them buried with them. Pets must be cremated at a state approved pet crematorium. A Certificate of Cremation must be submitted at the time of the pet's burial. Pets may only be buried after their owner has passed. John Durrand has more details if needed. Below are the current prices for the Byron Cemetery.

Current plot and burial prices:

Cemetery Plot (4x10) \$600	Pet Burial \$400
Burial \$600	Cremation burial \$400

Burials on Sundays & holidays are an additional \$100. Additional charges may be added for snow removal & penetration of frost depending on the costs to the cemetery.

Trustees:
 Kim Dewey, President
 Laura Bestehorn, Vice President
 Barb Read Treasurer
 Elaine Bezon, Secretary
 Audrey Henry
 David Leaton, Jr.

Superintendents:
 John Durand (585)813-3531
 Donna Durand (585)813-2591



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 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 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 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 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 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 April 12th for the winter session and will begin the spring session on April 26th. 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.

Book discussion group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. March 14th we are reading Dear Mrs. Bird by AJ Pearce come join this fun group and see what your neighbors are reading!!! 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 story time Monday March 12th at 6:30 pm with Miss Makayla. Wear something green and come enjoy a story, craft and a yummy treat! Registration is not necessary but appreciated.

Movie Day March 15th at 1pm – come watch *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*- From the imagination of Wizarding World creator J.K. Rowling -- rated PG-13 and runs 134 minutes. Refreshments provided!

Sew-Quilting Club is starting up at the Library on Thursday March 28th at 10am! We hope to meet at least once a month to share ideas and help with questions. Come with your creations and enjoy some one on one time with like-minded patrons. Refreshments provided.

National Library week is April 7th – 13th --Stop in and take out 3 or more books and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate!

Spring Break Happenings!! April 15th – April 20th

Babysitting workshop will be held on Monday April 15th from 10 to 3 pm. This workshop is open to anyone 11 yrs old and up. Cost \$25- includes a book to take home to reference. Registration and payment (cash only) is needed by Tuesday April 9th - Space is limited so sign up soon!

Wildlife Rockstars Animals will join us on Tuesday April 16th at 7pm. Come enjoy an up close and personal animal encounter with birds, reptiles and much more. No registration necessary.

Movie Day Wednesday April 17th at 2:30pm – Join us for the movie ***Dogs Way Home***- Rated PG-192 mins long. Refreshments too!

Spring/Easter Make & Take Craft – April 18th from 3pm- 6pm- Come anytime between 3pm and 6pm to create a fun colorful craft. No Registration necessary.

Join the Library and the Bergen Historical Society as we welcome Melinda Grube as Elizabeth Cady Stanton on Thursday May 2nd at 7pm. See history come alive in this historical interpretation. - Refreshments s to follow.

Home Alone workshop May 15th from 6pm to 8pm. For ages 7 yrs and up. Come learn telephone tips, internet safety, first aid and what to do in a power outage and more! Cost- \$15/cash only. Call or stop in to sign up by May 11th.

Movie Day at 1:00pm will be Friday May 24th with the movie to be announced soon! So check out our website for more information.

Come enjoy some great music for the Byron Memorial Day events with Hill Brothers in concert on May 27th at 11:30am--after the parade at the Byron Fire Hall on Rt.262. A fun-filled afternoon of sing-alongs, humor, and participatory songs for the whole family to enjoy! Enjoy the Chicken BBQ too!

The Library has Spectrum/Time Warner Internet service available. 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. 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

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 13th

11:00 am—?

Presented by the Byron Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary at the Byron Fire Hall, Rte. 262, Byron. The hunt will be for all youngsters ages 12 and under. Please bring a bag or basket to collect your treats. There will also be some crafts and activities immediately following the hunt.

Memorial Day Chicken Barbeque & Chinese Auction Monday, May 27th 11:30 am—?

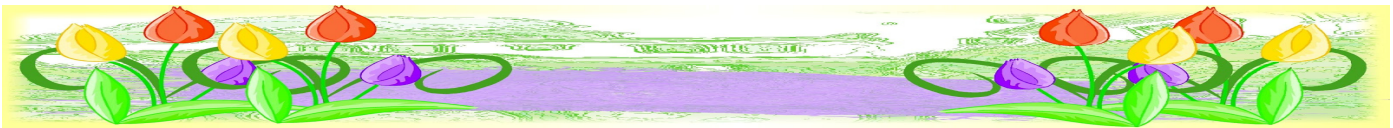
Presented by the Byron Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary at the Byron Fire Hall, Rte. 262, Byron. Dine in or take out meals: \$10.00 (1/2 Chicken Dinner) or \$5.00 (1/4 Chicken Dinner)

2019 Anti-Rabies Immunization Clinic

Offered by the Genesee County Department of Health on the following dates and locations:

May 2, 2019	4:00 to 7:00 pm	Pembroke Highway Department
August 15, 2019	4:00 to 7:00 pm	Genesee County Fairgrounds
September 19, 2019	4:00 to 7:00 pm	Pembroke Highway Department
October 17, 2019	4:00 to 7:00 pm	LeRoy Village Highway Dept.

A voluntary donation per dog, cat or ferret is requested to offset clinic expenses. Animals must be leashed or crated and accompanied by someone who can control it.



Town Clerk's Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.-12 noon & 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Closed on Thursday

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Phone Number and Extensions:

Town Hall - Highway Garage - Sewer Dept.

585 - 548 - 7123

Supervisor—Roger Rouse	Ext. 14	Home : 548-7767	
Town Clerk—Debra Buck-Leaton	Ext. 10	Highway Dept.— Brain Forsyth	Ext. 11
Court Clerk—Michelle Rast	Ext. 18	Cell phone:	615- 7713
Sewer Dept.	Ext. 12	Assessor— Barry Flansburg	Ext. 17
In an Emergency (Sewer Dept.—Shaun)	585-322-0006	Town Justice Smith	Ext. 18
CEO/ZEO—Mike Morris	Ext. 15	Town Justice Dimatteo	343-2770
Councilman Fred Klycek	548-9025		
Councilman Jeff Thompson	851-1469		
Councilman Jim Cudney	548-7383		
Councilman Sue Fuller	300-3456		