

# Town of Byron Newsletter



*Volume 1, Number 56*

## Supervisor

Hopefully summer is finally here! A lot sure has changed since our last newsletter; COVID-19 has certainly caused many hardships, from health to financial. I want to thank everyone for abiding by the rules and regulations that we had to put in place to keep the public and employees healthy and safe.

As some of you must have read, the lack of sales tax from the County is seriously going to hurt our Town's budget. With that being said, myself and the Town Board have had hard decisions to make, furloughing some Town employees in hopes of minimizing any deficits that may happen due to the loss of revenue from the lack of sales tax money from the County. We still have a long way to go to get through the year and staying within our budget.

Not much new to report about the solar project, it's making its way through the process. There will be a Public Hearing regarding the Town of Byron Solar Law as soon as it is safe to hold the meeting.

It's very disappointing that we have to cancel our Bicentennial celebration; we hope to pick it back up next year for a bigger and better event. Take comfort in knowing that other towns have to cancel events also.

Stay well and healthy. This is your Town.

Respectfully,  
Peter N. Yasses, Supervisor

## Town Clerk

What a difference a couple of months can make in our lives! I hope all of you are staying safe and healthy. We are trying to maintain some type of normalcy for Town residents in light of all that is going on in the world, but just like all of you, we are finding it difficult at times to do so. The Town Hall is closed to the public but, we do have a door we have recently retrofitted to accommodate transactions in person if it's necessary for you to do so, however, we are encouraging everyone to use the mail, online services or the drop box in the alcove for the time being. If it is necessary for you to come in, a mask is mandatory, and some are provided in the alcove along with hand sanitizer. The Town Hall hours have also changed, we are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9-12 and 1-4, Thursday 9-12, Fridays I will be working from home, and Saturday by appointment only. The office phones are forwarded to my cell phone on Thursdays when I leave the office so that you can get ahold of me on Friday and Saturday.

The Town Board and Planning Board meetings are being held via Zoom, if you are interested in being a part of them just check the Town website at [www.byronny.com](http://www.byronny.com) for the links.

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The Governor has finally made the announcement that day camps can open! Keep you eyes open for a date for the start of summer rec. I will have the forms available online for you to fill out prior to the first day.

Have a Happy and Healthy Summer,  
Debra Buck-Leaton, Town Clerk

## Highway Superintendent

With Spring finally here we are busy making repairs and doing road work. We will be oil and stoning Swamp and Caswell Roads, and also micro-paving McElver, Mae, Terry and Pauline Streets. Please be aware of road work signs in order to keep our highway men safe.

Now that the Town parks are open, we are once again seeing some vandalism. We have been busy doing quite a lot of work in the parks, so please, if you notice anything out of the ordinary, call the Sheriff's Department right away. This is your Town and your parks so let's all work together to keep them clean so that we can all enjoy them. As a reminder, there are no motorized vehicles allowed in the parks, only on the Westshore Trail.

Thank you,  
David Leaton, Highway Superintendent

## Town of Byron Bicentennial

The Byron Bicentennial Committee cares about the health and safety of our community, Sponsors, Vendors and Parade participants during this unprecedented time.

After multiple discussions it is with heavy hearts, we have decided to postpone this year's Bicentennial Celebration. We remain committed to our community and intend to be back next year better than ever!!!

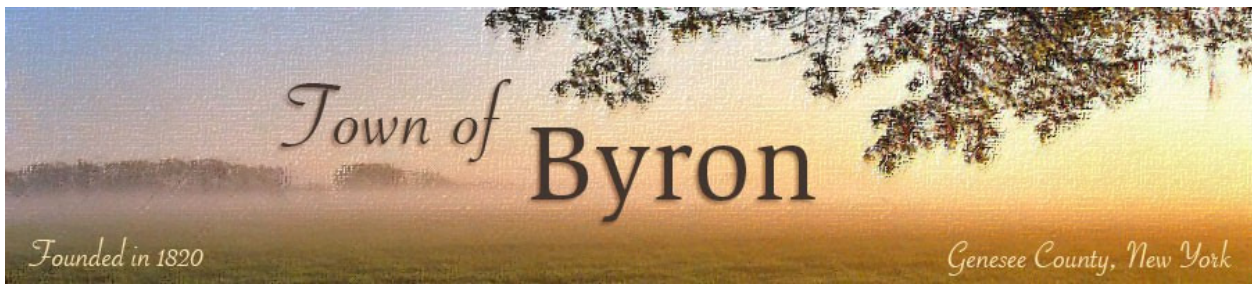
Tentatively the Bicentennial Celebration will be in August 2021.

Please watch for further information as to exact date in the next few months. We have not stopped our planning for the celebration and are still excited to celebrate the Town of Byron's 200 Years In The Making.

Please be safe and stay healthy!!!

Sincerely,  
The Byron Bicentennial Committee





## Bicentennial 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Fireworks

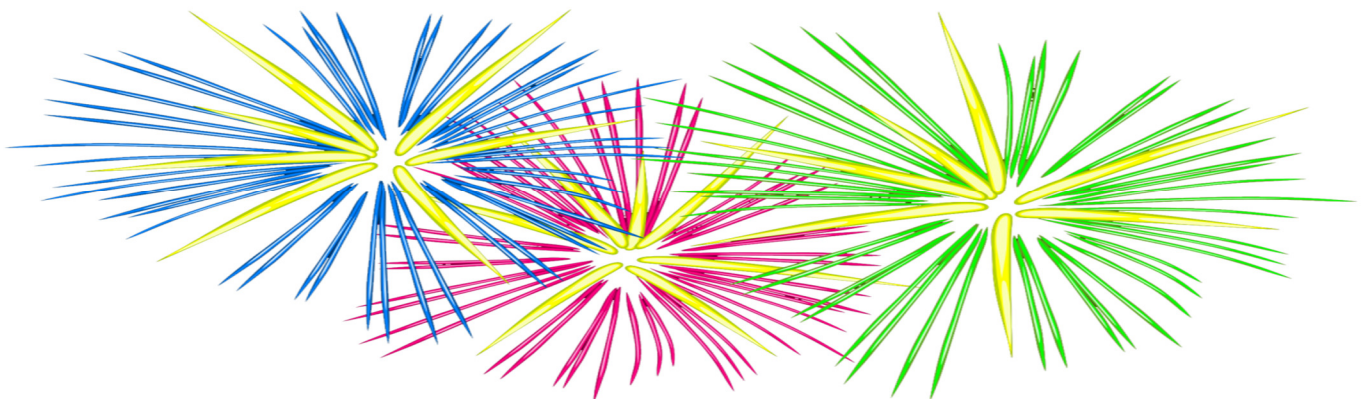
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there is no organized Town of Byron Bicentennial celebration this year, however, NextEra Energy Resources has partnered with the town to sponsor the fireworks display for the residents to enjoy. Please remember to socially distance.

When: Saturday, August 15, 2020

Time: Dusk (Around 9 p.m.)

Where: Route 262 across from the Byron fire department

Special thanks to NextEra Energy Resources for making this event possible.





Wow! What crazy times we are in....this is a very different newsletter that I have written in the past. Missing patrons before all this pandemic happened because of our renovations- and now I am really hoping you all come back to visit as soon as we open again! Since life changes from week to week – the best way to find out information on our Library is following us on FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/ByronBergenLibrary/> or on our website at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org).

We plan on having curbside pickup starting June 2<sup>nd</sup> then in a couple of weeks open up by appointment. We will see how it goes as timing is decided by the governor's decisions. Call the Library at 585-494-1120 to order books or email to [byrbgn@nioga.org](mailto:byrbgn@nioga.org) with a list of books that you would like. The catalog will tell you if we own the material but you can't place holds on them just yet.

Check our Pre-K Storytime with Miss Michelle on Facebook on Fridays at 10:30am. If you miss it- no worries it is on our account for you listening pleasure. There's magic in every book!

There have been a lot of changes at the Library! With the support of the Town of Bergen Board of Trustees and NY State Construction grant money, we have updated the Library circulation desk, carpet and created the Ethel Miller Children' Room also the entrance doors are all handicapped assessable as are the bathrooms. We look forward to opening up and serving the community.

This summer our reading program is Imagine your story! **Our Kick off virtual interactive program will be on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm with ScienceTellers' program "Dragons- Return of the Ice Sorceress"**- *A long time ago, in a faraway land, two brave villagers go on a daring journey to release the dragons and save the kingdom from an evil Ice Sorceress. When things don't go as planned, however, the kids might need to look to themselves — and to science!* — for the answer. Don't miss this fun fantasy adventure featuring awesome dry ice experiments as special effects! Go to [www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org](http://www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org) and click on the link. If you miss the program – we will have a link for you to watch when you have time. We hope to have summer reading bags to pick up with all the online programs and other fun activities to enjoy.

Check us out on the web at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org)! On our website you can find out what is happening at the Library, look at different resources like TumbleBooks and check on your Library account. The Library offers Hoopla, OverDrive/Libby, RB Digital for music, EBooks, downloadable Audio books, movies and magazines are available to use with a valid Library card. If you need a digital Library card call us 585-494-1120 or email [byrbgn@nioga.org](mailto:byrbgn@nioga.org)

Happy Reading, Nancy Bailey



#### From the Byron-Bergen Public Library Board:

The Board has decided to cancel the Barley and Books Library Fundraiser due to the Covid19 virus pandemic. We want to thank everyone for their continued support and hope to be back in 2021!

# Cemetery Association

Many changes have occurred since the last newsletter. COVID-19 totally disrupted our lives. Hope everyone is healthy and our lives will slowly return to normal. The Annual Meeting of the Byron Cemetery Association had to be postponed until a later date. Keep an eye in the Public Notice section of the Daily News for details of that meeting in the future. Spring did not bring the typical weather of warm and sunny days. It seems like spring was omitted and a quick switch turned to summer weather. John Durand and Dave Leaton have been busy getting the cemetery lawn, bushes and grave sites whipped into shape. We are so grateful for their dedication to maintaining our small town cemetery. We appreciate their willingness to give of their time and energy.

**Exciting News!** Tom Chapell, owner of Visual Impact Graphics, has designed a few new signs for the cemetery. He has graciously done this at no charge. The signs will display the rules of the cemetery, contact names and phone numbers as well as a map of the cemetery. The map will be useful in locating graves, which Kate Wride has meticulously organized on a spread sheet. We are blessed with many wonderful volunteers in Byron. The main sign on Townline Road needs replacing and Tom is providing that as well. Be on the lookout for these new signs as they will be installed in the near future.

Speaking of rules ~ a gentle reminder to place flowers and decorations in a straight line with the stones to make mowing and trimming easier. Decorations may be placed in the cemetery between April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. A reminder that live plants should not be planted in the cemetery without approval from the Cemetery Association. They require maintenance that needs to be taken into consideration. Glass containers are prohibited for safety reasons. Kindly remove items when they become weathered or unsightly.

The cemetery is a peaceful and tranquil area to take a walk and observe the many names of Byron residents. It's also an honor to see all the veteran markers on many graves. Veteran markers have been replaced and updated this year. We are grateful to the men and women who have fought for our freedom. We request that the cemetery be treated with respect and dignity. If you walk your dog through the cemetery, keep them on a leash and clean up after them. We are proud of our well maintained cemetery.

Thinking about purchasing a plot for your final resting place? John and Donna Durand, Superintendents of the Byron Cemetery, would be glad to assist you in this process. There are many plots available and the Durand's can show them to you. Preplanning for burials can make decisions easier for those who are grieving. Pets are also welcome at the cemetery. Give a call to John or Donna for more details.

### 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.

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Trustees:	Superintendents:
Kim Dewey, President (585) 356-2256	John Durand (585)813-3531
Laura Bestehorn, Vice President	Donna Durand (585)813-2591
Kate Wride, Treasurer	
Dave Leaton Jr. Vice Treasurer	
Elaine Bezon, Secretary	
Barb Read	
Audrey Henry	

## Byron-Bergen Imagination Library

The Byron-Byron community is approaching its fifth year sending age appropriate children’s books, provided by the Imagination Library through the Richter Family Foundation. As of January 2020 we have delivered over 4,000 books to our important residents of the Byron-Bergen school district, ages birth to 5 years.

This program is only possible with local donations. At present we provide approximately 110 children in the Byron-Bergen district with monthly books. This program would not be possible without the generous donations we have received from local individuals, businesses and organizations. All tax deductible donations are used entirely to pay for the books and postage. Byron-Bergen donations are used solely for the Byron-Bergen district children. The cost per year per child is approximately \$25.00 to receive monthly books.

Without the donations the children would not have this program be a reality, which we believe encourages our young future leaders to develop a love of reading.

The Richter Family Foundation provides brochures, handles the registering and ordering, and provides the necessary 501(c)(3) non-profit status the local community needs to raise the funds to participate, through the tax deductible donations.

We need community monetary support to help keep this program active. We welcome donations of any amount, at any time. Please consider sponsoring a new baby, grandchild, neighbor or friend. Registration and donation forms are available at the Byron Town Hall or by contacting one of the members below.

Thank you for your past donations, they were well used to bring the monthly books to our young readers! We are grateful for your continuing, necessary support.

Anna Marie Barclay 585-494-1513  
Donna Gerrard 585-548-7380

## Historians

Dear Town of Byron Residents,

Since the beginning of the New York State on Pause & the Corvid Virus Pandemic on March 16, 2020, we have been learning a new style of living.

We have been asked by New York State to try and record how the Town of Byron has dealt with & been affected by this situation. The way to do this accurately is to ask each resident, business, farm, and organization to participate from their point of view & experience.

Things to record:

- Did you have the virus?
- How was your job was affected (work from home, still go to work, laid-off)
- How was your Business affected?
- How did it affect your organization? Meetings, fundraisers, etc.
- How did you celebrate a loved one's birthday, graduation, bridal shower, wedding, baby shower, wedding anniversary, etc.
- What did you do to relax? read a book, watch tv, listen to music, call a love one, take a drive
- How did you communicate with your doctor? By phone, computer, at the office, cancelled appointment
- Were you able to complete a project that you put off?
- How else did you spend your time?
- What else you think is important to note for future generations to understand what changed our lives and what was able to stay routine or normal.

For example:

Bob has been blessed not to have the virus to this point.

Bob has still been working his shifts at the Dialysis Unit in Batavia each week. So his job is considered essential. The PPE (personal protection equipment) at his job became limited and had to wear his mask longer to address the shortage. He had to have his vitals & temperature checked upon arrival at work to make sure he hadn't contracted the virus. The hand sanitizer was replaced with a higher percentage of alcohol in it for the patients and his protection. His patients weren't allowed in the treatment area until they too had vitals & temperature checked. The patient's family could only drop them off and pick them up. With his job working for a dialysis facility the need has not changed and has stayed normal amount of patient for care during this pandemic.

As most of you know Bob is a Volunteer Firefighter for South Byron Volunteer Fire Company. He still responds to calls with a heightened awareness of using PPE. The PPE used to be more of a thought for the patient care. Now it is the concern not to become a carrier of the disease as well. He attends his meetings with his mask or by video.

He has had a doctor appointment by phone, telemedicine, and in person. All three appointments were handled in a different manner than usual. The most noticeable the wearing of face-masks & gloves at all times by the medical personal, and Bob wearing a mask. This experience has made us aware how much we tend to read the medical personals facial expressions during our visits before the pandemic. Now it is trying to tell what the eyes saying (concern, no concern).

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Bob's birthday was the beginning of April, he turned 68. We ordered take-out for the two of us. Our daughter's families called and wished him a Happy Birthday. A couple of days later our neighbor Skip celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday. His family invited us to take part in a parade to surprise him. Skip's birthday was on Easter Sunday. This was a fun way to celebrate out of the ordinary.

Bob has enjoyed watching the You-tube channel on the television. He usually watches videos on woodturning, listening to music, historical channel, and how to videos.

Bob and I both noticed that it is difficult to keep track of the day of the week or date. We have felt at times we were experiencing the movie Ground Hog Day where the main character wakes up to the same day repeatedly.

We miss being able to visit with our grandchildren and play with them. Our six grandchildren range in age from newborn to 8 years old. We miss the celebration of holidays and special events with family and friends.

\*\*\*Please consider participating in the project. We need as many residents as possible to write up their experience. This is intended to include children, teenagers, adults. Each person will have a different view of the experience that will show how we survive our challenge of living in a different standard of living. Byron is a very special place to live. Our community is a family that supports and encourages each other. Thank you in advance for participating.

Please mail or email your contribution to:

**Bob & Beth Wilson - Historians**  
6451 Mill Pond Rd.  
Byron, New York 14422-9758  
[historian@byronny.com](mailto:historian@byronny.com)  
phone: 585-409-5991

### 2020 ANTI-RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

Genesee County Fairgrounds 5031 East Main Street, Batavia	August 13, 2020	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Pembroke Highway Department 1145 Main Road (Rte. 5), Pembroke	September 17, 2020	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
LeRoy Village Highway Garage 58 North Street, LeRoy	October 15, 2020	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Each dog, cat and ferret must be leashed or crated and accompanied by someone who can control it. Dog, cat and ferret vaccinations are free. Voluntary donations are accepted. Save time by filling out your registration form before the clinic at: <http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/health/>



## Byron Rescue Squad

It's time for a change. The Byron Rescue Squad is ready for a new ambulance. Their current ambulance will be 12 years old this month. It is currently at the Churchville Fire Equipment Repair Shop undergoing some much needed repairs. When the cost of repairs begins to rise and you have an older ambulance it is time to start looking for a replacement.

The Byron Rescue Squad averages over 100 calls a year. They are part of the Byron Fire Department #1 just off Route 262. The EMS Services started in 1975. Rescue Squad Captain Brad Nickerson has been an EMT for over 15 years. The Squad has recently moved to an Advanced Life Support level to better help those in need. There are currently 12 EMT's in the Squad. Three are certified as Advanced EMT's. The Rescue Squad does not charge for its services and all the members are Volunteers. They do not receive any pay for their Service to our community.

So, how does the Byron Rescue Squad pay for an ambulance and medical supplies? The answer is easy. The residents of Byron donate each year when they receive a Fund Drive letter. Other donations received during the year all add up and keep this valuable service going. With the arrival of Covid19 the need for EMS has remained high but their ability to Fund Raise has become much harder. The need for a new ambulance to cover 911 calls for the next 12 years is an additional strain on their finances. So, a GoFundMe page has been started in addition to the annual Fund Drive Letter this year. The Rescue Squad is asking for your help to spread the word and support this worthy cause.

We have seen the best in people during this crisis. With families struggling to make ends meet it is hard to ask for help. The Byron Rescue Squad needs your help as they return their current ambulance to service and push to reach their Goal of a new ambulance. They thank everyone who has contributed over the years and to those who will help them reach their GoFundMe goal this year.

### Town Clerk's Office Hours:

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

**Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-12 noon**

**Friday and Saturday: Closed**

Phone Number and Extensions:

Town Hall - Highway Garage - Sewer Dept.  
 585 - 548 - 7123

Supervisor—Peter Yasses	Ext. 14		
Town Clerk—Debra Buck-Leaton	Ext. 10	Highway Dept.— David Leaton	Ext. 11
Court Clerk—Morgan Leaton	Ext. 18	Cell phone:	402-4717
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 Josh Kent	813-1760	Councilman Sue Fuller	300-3456
Councilman Jeff Thompson	851-1469	Councilman Eric Zuber	746-5158