

# Town of Byron NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Number 31 Winter 2013

## From the Supervisor's Desk

Town Engineer, Paul Chatfield, and Stuart Brown Associates, the firm that handles water funding for the Town, will be discussing different options for water district funding with meetings to be held in the beginning of 2014. The meetings will discuss financing options and what the debt costs could be in each area. The water area residents MUST do the petitions and make sure all mailings are returned if you want the water in your area.

The Swamp, Cole and Hessenthaler Roads water district application is now with USDA Rural Development, and we are waiting for approval for grant funding. The North Byron Road and Byron, Caswell, Cockram and Walkers Corner Roads district could be the next areas to qualify for USDA funding with income levels eligibility acceptable for more funding from Rural Development. When income surveys and well surveys are sent to residents, they all must be returned to get an accurate count if applying to receive federal funding to cut the cost of the water projects down to make them affordable to residents. The Lyman, Coward, North Bergen, Warboys, Bird and Merrill Road water areas that sent back some of their income surveys have exceeded the USDA income threshold for federal grants.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Supervisor for the last 4 years.

Robert Crnkovich, Supervisor

## Town Clerk

If you do not receive a tax bill by the beginning of January, unless your taxes are escrowed with your mortgage company, please call me right away. Taxes are collected at the Town Hall January 1st through March 31, 2014, and can be paid by cash, check, charge or money order. After March 31st you must contact the Genesee County Treasurer with regard to payment. Taxes paid after January 31st will be assessed a penalty (please see your tax bill for amounts).

The Clerk's Office will be conducting another Dog Census next year, please license your dog so that you are in compliance with NYS and the Town of Byron Dog Control Laws. Licensing is necessary to ensure that dogs have proper rabies vaccinations, which without, could be a detriment to the community. ALL dogs age 4 months and older need to be licensed with the Town Clerk. If you are found not to be in compliance, you will be issued an Appearance Ticket to appear in Town Court.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Debra Buck-Leaton, Town Clerk

# NYS STAR PROGRAM~SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

All New York homeowners receiving a Basic STAR property tax exemption must register with the NYS Tax Department in order to receive the STAR exemption in 2014 and subsequent years. All Basic STAR recipients will receive registration instructions by mail. Visit the website at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) to register now. The registration deadline is December 31, 2013. This is part of an initiative to protect New Yorkers against the costs of inappropriate or fraudulent STAR exemptions. Questions, call 518-457-2036 or visit the website.

Seniors receiving Enhanced STAR (65 yrs. or older) benefits are not affected by the new registration requirement. In order to continue to receive Enhanced STAR, seniors must continue to apply annually, or participate in the Income Verification Program with your Town Assessor.

## Byron Presbyterian Church

Byron Presbyterian Church will partner with FoodLink of Rochester to host a mobile food pantry from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, December 7 at Byron Presbyterian Church, 6293 West Main St. (Rt. 262), Byron. The exact food items available are not known, but fresh produce will be available. The Mobile Food Pantry is available to residents of the Byron- Bergen School District, but we will not turn away anyone who resides in Genesee County. There is no income verification required, but you must be 18 years old to pick up food from the pantry. Provide your own bags/cart/vehicle to transport items to your home. For more information, call Byron Presbyterian Church at (585) 548-2800.

Christmas Basket donations are due on Sunday, December 8. The Deacons of the church are preparing Christmas baskets with NEW clothing and toys for children in our community. Please call the church office for detailed information about what is needed.

Children's Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 15, 9:45 AM.

Christmas Eve Service of Candles and Carols, Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 PM.

Annual Meeting of the Byron Presbyterian Church, Sunday January 26, immediately following 9:45 AM worship.

The church also coordinates a "Backpack" program for Byron-Bergen Schools. Each week, backpacks are filled and provided to 35 children who may be "food insecure". This can include items such as entrees, canned vegetables and fruits, juice, shelf-stable milk, cereal and oatmeal. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please send a check to the church indicting "Backpack Program" on the check. Checks can be sent to Byron Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 206, Byron, NY 14422. If you would like to donate food items or would like to hear more about this program, please contact the church office at 585-548-2800. Someone will return your call to discuss items used and how to get the items to the program.

Sunday worship is always at 9:45 AM. Sunday School and nursery care are also available. A monthly Bible Study usually happens on the fourth Monday of each month. The December Bible Study will be held on Monday, January 6, 7:00 PM.

# Byron-Bergen Public Library

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Library Board and Staff! We have many holiday cookbooks, craft books, boredom buster books, audio books and movies available. We also have books available online to read with your e-readers as well as free music download through Freegal. Search our website at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) and check out happenings and our on-line catalog or join us on Facebook!

## **The Holiday Library hours will be:**

**Tuesday Dec. 24th- 10 -5**

**Wednesday Dec. 25th – Closed**

**Thursday Dec. 26th 10-12 & 2-8**

**Friday Dec.27th 10-6**

**Saturday Dec. 28th 10-1**

**Tuesday Dec. 31st 10-5**

**January 1st. Closed**

**January 2nd thru 4th regular Library hours**

Holiday Craft night on December 18th at 6:30- come join us as we make a special gift to give to Mom or Grandma. Registration required by December 14th.. Call the Library for more information or to sign up.

Book discussion for December will be on the Thursday the 12th at 7:00pm. We are reading Time Keeper by Mitch Albom. Come January 10th to discuss the book Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom. We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month so stop in and check out what we are reading and join the fun. If you're interested in joining, stop by to pick up a copy or log on to the catalog at [www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org) to place your request.

### Movie Days during Holiday break:

December 20th at 10:30 am – Grinch Stole Christmas and Elf!

December 27th at 10:30 am – Despicable Me2

Registration is appreciated by calling or stopping by the Library

Our A Tale for Three Counties book for 2014 is Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker. Karen Thompson Walker's The Age of Miracles is a luminous, haunting, and unforgettable debut novel about coming of age, set against the backdrop of an utterly altered world. The author will visit in our area March 20th to both Genesee Community College at 1pm and the Richmond Memorial Library at 7pm. Log on to [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) and reserve your copy of the book now. Our community wide book discussion will be held on Thursday, March 13th at 7pm. Join us as we explore the book and its characters!! Share your views of the book with your neighbors and friends. Refreshment served. No registration needed.

Pre-school story time is at 10:30am on Fridays until December 15th. If you are 2-5 years old, join us for a story, related craft and a snack! January 10th starts our Winter story time. Home schooled children are welcome. Please register by calling the Library at 494-1120 or stop in and see us.

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Winter Break Happenings:

February 17th from 9 am-2 pm Babysitting class – cost \$45/includes book. Must sign up by and paid by February 12th.

February 19th at 6:30 pm Reptile show featuring Pioneer Reptiles! Registration required.

February 21st at 10:30 am Preschool story time. Registration is appreciated.

Join us on March 19th for our community preschool program at the Bergen Presbyterian Church at 10:30 am. Cris Johnson will be here with his “I Love to Read” show has tons of audience participation, music and fun with puppets! No registration required.

The Library is part of the Nioga system and we now subscribe to Zinio – JobNow- as well as Overdrive for online audio and e-books and Freegal music downloads. All you need is a valid Nioga Library card! Stop in and get a Library card that will open up the whole NIOGA system for ordering books from the comfort of your home!

Services at the Library:

Fax/copy service for a small fee, 3 patron computers with updated software and hardware hooked up to Roadrunner, patron computers with printing for a small fee and Wi-Fi access. 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.

There are openings on the Byron-Bergen Library Board of Trustees. If interested, send a letter of interest to: Byron-Bergen Library Board, P.O. Box 430, Bergen, NY 14416 by January 2, 2014.

Happy Reading-Nancy Bailey, Library Manager

## Upcoming Events

### ***Breakfast With Santa***

***Sunday, Dec. 15th, 9 am-12 pm***

To be held at the Byron Fire Dept. Family rates available.

### ***Byron Ladies Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast pm***

***Sunday, Feb. 16th, 9 am-12  
pm***

To be held at the Byron Fire Dept. Chinese Auction with drawings at noon.

### ***Genesee County's Individuals With Disabilities Dance at the Byron Fire Hall***

Thursday, December 19th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Christmas)

Thursday, January 16th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (New Year's)

Thursday, February 13th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Valentine's)

Thursday, March 13th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (St. Patrick's)

Thursday, April 17th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Pajamas)

Thursday, May 15th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (Hawaiian)

***Sponsored by the Byron Ladies Auxiliary.***



# Gillam-Grant Community Center

**Gillam-Grant Learning Center Homework Help** - Students may attend Mon. - Thursday 2:30 - 4:30 on a daily, weekly or as needed basis to receive help with nightly homework assignments.

**Gillam-Grant Wednesday Night Men's Basketball** ~ Continues from 7:30 until 9:30 pm in the B-B Middle School whenever school is in session. (Note: No sessions 1/29/14 & 2/19/14)

**Gillam-Grant Lunch Club:** On Mondays, once a month we will travel to a local restaurant to enjoy lunch and socialize. Transportation will leave the Center at 11:30am. *Registration Requested by the Thursday before our lunch date. Space is limited to 14.*

**January 27th~ Alex's Place February 24th ~ TGI Fridays**

**Vocal and Performing Arts Classes at Gillam-Grant ~ 8 Week program:**

**Kindergarten thru 3rd grade:** Fridays from 3:30-5:00pm, starting Fridays, February 7th.

**4th thru 6th grade:** Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00pm, starting Thursdays, February 6th

**PROGRAM COVERS:** Visual Arts, Acting, Singing, Music, Dance, Movement. Call Gillam-Grant at 494-1621.

**January 8th: Primetimers event:** Share conversation and company and play some Wii games.

**January 9th: Holiday Aftermath Shopping** - Shuttle will leave the Center at 10am and return approximately at 3:30 pm, giving you hours to do your *After-Christmas Sale* shopping. Travel to Market Square in Henrietta which includes stores: Marshalls, Kirkland, AC Moore, Bed, Bath and Beyond and more. Call for transportation cost, 494-1621.

**January 11th: 10 Week Session Gillam-Grant Martial Arts**, including Jeet Kune Do/Kung Fo

**January 15th: Trip to GEVA with Gillam-Grant** for *Last Gas*, a romantic comedy. Reservation and payment by **Jan. 6th** by calling 494-1621.

**January 16th: Starts Step Aerobics Plus More!** Class runs on Thursdays for 6 weeks, call Gillam-Grant for more details, 494-1621.

**February 3rd: Social Supper** at 5:30pm, featuring a sneak peak at the High School Musical, *All I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.

**February 13th: Getting Paid to Talk**, class is an introduction to professional voice overs. Learn the basics and have a chance to record a commercial under the direction of Voicecoach.com producer! Call Gillam-Grant for more information, 494-1621.

**February 12th: Primetimers event**, Share conversation and company and play some Wii games.

**February 19th Trip to GEVA with Gillam-Grant** for *Clybourne*, wickly funny and fiercely provocative play about the volatile combination of race and real estate. Reservation and payment by Feb. 5th by calling 494-1621.

**February 19th: NYS Prelicensing Course** from 9:30am to 2:00pm, Pre-registration required. Call Gillam-Grant at 494-1621.

**March 17th at 10:15am, Primetimers event:** You don't have to be Irish to celebrate St. Pat's Day with friends and GG!



# Byron Fire Department

Winter weather is now upon us and that brings with it a number of safety issues that were not present during the warmer months. With the heating season comes the possibility of overworked heating systems failing, causing fires, or producing carbon monoxide in the house. Please have your furnace checked to make sure it is working properly and safely. There are new Carbon Monoxide detectors that will also detect natural gas. These new detectors can help make your house safer. Also, many of the new detectors have digital readouts to help determine how much CO there may be in the house. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations when installing them. CO detectors have a life span of 3-5 years and need to be replaced at that time. Also exposure to CO shortens a CO detector's useful life span.

Many of the motor vehicle accidents we respond to every year happen in the winter months, many are caused by driving too fast for conditions. Taking a little extra care and slowing down when there is poor visibility, snow, ice or freezing rain will go a long way toward having a safe trip. We want everyone to arrive to their destination safely.

For those who are thinking about how they could meet a lot of good people and help their community in a big way, a new firefighter class will start in February. We also need people be medics, help with administrative issues, fundraising and record keeping. If you are interested just stop down to either hall on a Monday night or talk to any firefighter or medic.

The Byron Fire Hall is available for funeral gatherings at no charge for community members. The Byron Ladies Auxiliary also offers reasonably priced catering services. Please contact Laura Platt at 548-2245 for more information.

## From the Historian's Desk

I was just watching a documentary on the Battle of Gettysburg, which was 150 years ago this last summer. By this time in 1863 the Union had the Confederacy on the run, and it looked like we may win the war. I checked cemetery records for the Byron Cemetery and at least 8 Byronites had been killed, and at least 9 more before the wars end. I say at least because I have not found any records of our citizens that may be in other cemeteries relating to the battles.

I did a little research and the Civil War has had the greatest American deaths known, just under 625,000 soldiers, 364,511 Union, and just under 299,524 Confederate soldiers were killed, and the unknown number of civilians killed.

And if you would like to know 1,321,612 American servicemen and women have lost their lives from 1775-present defending our Constitution and our liberties.



## FRACKING

Anyone interested in being involved in a committee to study the affects of fracking on our community are encouraged to contact Sue Fuller at 548-2278

# Byron Kiwanis

Byron Kiwanis had a very successful year under the great leadership of President Karen Jaczynski. We had our 41st Annual Beef Barbeque and Auction at the South Byron Firemen's Recreational Hall. Mr. William (Bill) Kent performed, again, outstanding service as the auctioneer. Cheers to him. We also want to thank all the businesses and people who donated items for the auction. We especially want to give special thanks to the pie buyers with the average selling price of \$150 per pie. What great believers in what Byron Kiwanis does for our community.

Some of the activities that Byron Kiwanis helped with are as follows: we gave \$1,000 to the Byron Summer Youth Program. Some 40 children participated in that program. This program provided for several outside visiting activities that most of these youth would never have the opportunity to see or learn about. Additionally, this Byron youth group cleaned headstones in the Byron Cemetery. Hurray for these young people and the adult leaders!

The Byron Kiwanis awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to deserving Byron-Bergen Central School seniors to further their educational goals. We helped with the Byron Heritage Days with a donation for the youth that competed in the Youth Fishing Derby at Trestle Park.

Kiwanis held pancake breakfasts at the Byron Firemen's Recreational Hall, which benefitted Gillam-Grant Community Center and the Byron Back Pack Program through the Byron Presbyterian Church.

One of our additional donations is to the Batavia Kiwanis Club for the benefit of the Children Advocacy Center that is to be located in Batavia for benefit of children all over our area. With this year's donation, Byron Kiwanis will have donated \$4,500. This center affords families of child victims the ease of accessing comprehensive services without having to navigate the confusing web of multiple human services and governmental agencies on their own.

Our strictly non-profit (no member receives any financial remuneration) Byron Kiwanis members meet the first, second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the historic Byron Hotel. You are invited to attend any of our meetings, and/or join our select volunteer group.

Byron Kiwanis is growing. Recently we installed a new member, Kevin Scroger. He and his family recently purchased the former Hulburt property on Townline Road. He is a key member of CY Farms. Welcome him, and his wife Beth, when you see them.

We have several projects in the works. The next event is ringing the bells for the Salvation Army at the LeRoy Tops. In January we will have a pancake breakfast at the Byron Firemen's Recreational Hall on Sunday, January 19th. The proceeds will be divided between the new Byron Ambulance Fund and the Byron Youth Recreation Summer Program. Both are worthy goals. Our annual Family Christmas Party will be held in January. We are like the Marine Corps-looking for a few new members.

Have a welcome and cheerful Christmas, and a healthy New Year.

John Sackett, Kiwanis President



# Byron CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

**Volunteer(s) needed immediately to be the Cemetery Superintendent.** Dealing with documents, some physical work and being available during the day to work with Funeral Homes at burials are some of the duties.

Having a cemetery plot is not necessary. We are hoping someone wanting to give back to our area will step forward and volunteer for the position. There are many prominent names found in the cemetery that still have relatives living in Byron and we are hoping they may want to help preserve the graves of their loved ones.

The trustees of the cemetery wish to thank George Heins and Scott Wooton for all the work they have done over the years. It is now time for some others to step forward.

Please contact Shirley Hobin at (585) 944-4567.



## ***UGLY SWEATER CONTEST***

Byron Hotel                      December 1st-15th

\$1 Donation to enter                      Winner Announced at 9 p.m. on December 20th

\*Proceeds to Benefit Byron Kiwanis

### **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 – Robert Crnkovich	Ext. 14	Home: 548-7767		
Town Clerk – Debra Buck-Leaton	Ext. 10	Highway Dept. - George Heins	Ext. 11	
Court Clerk - Krista Fairbanks	Ext. 18	Cell Phone:	703 - 3309	
Sewer Dept.	Ext. 12	In an Emergency	585-507-9245	
CEO/ZEO – Ken Kuter	Ext. 15	Assessor - Barry Flansburg	Ext. 17	Town
Justice DiMatteo	343-2770	Town Justice Smith	Ext. 18	Councilman
Jeff Thompson	851-1469	Councilman Jack Redick	303-1668	
Councilman Scott Wooton	548-4741	Councilman Harold Austin	409-9827	