

Town of Byron NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Number 51 Winter 2018

From the Supervisor's Desk

Since summer has left us and winter has prematurely arrived, we need to lower our speedometers when roads are icy or snow covered. This also means you should leave more distance between you and other vehicles up ahead.

WATER DISTRICTS:

District 7 installation is in process so this means you should be patient and drive slower when approaching the active work zones. You don't want to impede their progress.

District 8 bids have been placed out and are due back by mid-December. Anticipated project completion is June 2019. So again be patient and courteous when driving around the active work zones.

COMMITTEES:

Please call to set up an appointment if you are interested in serving on either the Park Committee or Historical Society Committee. We need input and assistance on how to improve appearance in the town by joining either of the committees.

I would like to invite anyone who is interested in serving on the Byron Planning Board to give us a call at 548-7123 X10.

If you have any questions or complaints please feel free to call 548-7123 X14.

Roger V.V. Rouse, Supervisor

Town Clerk

Tax time is right around the corner, and 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, 2019, 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). Starting January 1st, we will be offering online tax payments, just go to the Town's website at www.byronny.com and look for the link.

Have a very Merry Christmas, and a safe Happy New Year!

Debra Buck-Leaton, Town Clerk

Highway Superintendent

Hello again...during last winters newsletter I addressed “where are they”.. This time I’d like to address “why are they out there”. Although much of the time it seems fairly obvious why we are out there sometimes it isn’t so obvious. The road temperature plays more of a factor than the ambient air temperature. For example the air temperature may be 37 while the road temperature is only 31. The opposite also can happen when the air temperature is only 31 yet through sunshine, daylight, and blacktop's ability to hold heat, the road temperature is still 37. When road temperatures are cold and getting colder it is to everyone’s benefit to put material down before the roads “set up” or become slippery. A lot of the time preventative maintenance is used before traffic starts having issues. Residual salt lasts on road surfaces to continue to make them safe after we have put the trucks away. We (I) then determine the upcoming weather and temperatures to determine when to re-apply. Road temperatures are monitored through an in-truck thermometer in the pickup which gives “real time” accuracy. We’ve all heard how bridges “set up” faster and there are also other sheltered spots throughout town where this occurs. In closing , it’s our (my) responsibility to determine how to keep the roads safe and it’s the traveling publics job to give yourself extra time, SLOW DOWN and drive reasonably for existing road and weather conditions....Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year !!

Respectfully ,

Brian

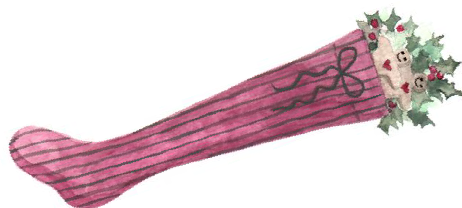
From the Historian's Desk

This year is the 200th Anniversary of the Byron Presbyterian Church. On Saturday, November 17, 2018 the 200th Anniversary Celebration was held at the South Byron Volunteer Fire Company Recreation Hall. It was well attended with an entertaining and informative program and excellent meal.

Included with the program was a booklet on the history of the Byron Presbyterian Church. I found an interesting article that I would like to share with you. The article is from page 29 and is titled Byron Presbyterian Church Celebrates 200 years of Faith”, by Jessica Dillion, JDILLION@BATAVIANEWS, Published: Friday, January 19, 2018.

“BYRON-There’s a bullet hole in the pulpit, where the pastor usually stands. And every time a guest speaker takes the podium, Rev. James Renfrew makes sure to tell them how it got there. One evening in the early 1900’s, the community gathered in the sanctuary of Byron First Presbyterian for a dramatic theater presentation-one that turned out perhaps a little more dramatic than they’d bargained for.

The play required the use of a gun, and so an actor brought in the prop on his hip. But when he pulled the trigger to shoot a blank, a bullet flew from the barrel instead, traveling straight through the thick wood that stood at the church’s head. Renfrew said the actors realized the gaffe pretty quickly- nobody was injured that night. And for several years following, dramas and comedies rang out their final breaths in the same room, still, the bullet hole a reminder of what could, by some, be labeled a form of divine intervention.”



Genesee County Legislator, Robert Bausch

The 2019 county budget is complete and should be passed at the November 28th legislative meeting, assuming no unforeseen issues. The tax rate will decrease \$0.03 per thousand. This is the result of increased assessed value in the county from new commercial projects that are now being fully assessed and the old county nursing home which is now privately owned. The budget is under the state mandated tax cap which is important because if the county overrides the tax cap \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 NYS mandated services reimbursement is in jeopardy.

The new budget is funding some critical shortcomings in the county. After much study, the legislature determined that there was a need for the reinstatement of an assistant county engineer. This individual will provide the professional expertise necessary to support the demands of the water projects, bridge programs, and numerous other initiatives. The IT Department was unable to meet the requirements for various county and state programs so an additional position was approved. Both positions received prior approval in late summer and individuals have been recruited. The District Attorney's office is facing many challenges so an additional Assistant DA position was budgeted. Lastly, there is a strong desire to continue upgrading the county parks and ensuring that maintenance is performed timely, so additional staffing was approved.

The Jail project continues to move forward. The County advertised for architectural proposals and received four. The jail work group interviewed two firms. Both made strong presentations and were asked to provide additional information, including a pricing structure. When the jail project started 18 months ago, the projected timeline was 5 years to completion. Being thorough and cost conscious, that is realistic.

Phase 2 of the water project is progressing. Bid documents are being prepared, SEQOR has been approved, the closing on 4 parcels in Monroe County is almost complete, and financing is progressing. This project should be completed within two years. Phase 3, which is very important to the Byron-Bergen area, initial design is starting.

The current sales tax agreement between Genesee County and the City of Batavia expired earlier this year and an extension is expected to be granted by the State Controller through December 31, 2019. A new agreement with the city is complete but will require special NYS legislation because it will be for 40 years. A revenue sharing program with the towns and villages has been approved by the legislature for 2020 with the anticipation that a similar program will be the basis for future revenue sharing. Unfortunately, these changes were required to provide funding for the new jail.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to consider and vote on the proposal to change the term of county legislators from two to four years. I was a strong supporter and very much appreciate its passage.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season.





Happy Holidays!! During your holiday rush of activities don't forget to enjoy the many holiday books and movies available at your Library! We have cookbooks for meals on the go as well as baking cookbooks for the perfect Christmas cookie! Stop by when the children are on vacation for boredom buster books and craft books to inspire their imaginations. Don't forget your audio books for the long car rides to Grandma's house! Search our website at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and check out Library happenings as well as our on-line catalog or join us on Facebook and Twitter too!

The Holiday Library hours will be:

Tuesday December 25th -Closed

Merry Christmas!

Wednesday Dec. 26th 10am-12pm and 2pm-8pm

Thursday Dec. 27th -10am-12pm and 2pm-8pm

Friday Dec. 28th – 10am- 6pm

Saturday Dec. 29th 10am – 1pm

Tuesday January 1st- Closed

Happy New Year!

Holiday Happenings-

Girls night out- December 6th at 7pm- Join us as we make an ornament- using English paper piecing- that you can keep or give a gift. Great way to make holiday memories and learn something new! Refreshments and fun! Registration is appreciated but not necessary.

Movie Day on Friday December 21st Stop anytime from 10:30 am. We will be enjoying a classic movie for the whole family to enjoy- **Emmett Otter's Jug-Band Christmas**. Enjoy sharing this classic with your favorite child- featuring Jim Hanson's Muppets- run time 60 minutes. Call the Library for more information. No Registration required.

Game Night at the Library will be Wednesday Dec. 26th – Come join us for games of all kinds-board games-card games and pizza and a treat! All the fun starts at 5pm! Registration is appreciated.

Craft/Maker Space fun at the Library – Thursday Dec. 27th from 3-6 pm- Stop to create and explore at the different stations we will have set up! No Registration required.

Did you get a new Gadget for Christmas? Do you need help getting Library books, movies and music on you gadget? Set up an appointment any Wednesday during regular Library hours to get the help you need. There are more free materials for our patrons that have E-readers, smart phones, laptops and tablets using your Library card. Call 494-1120 or stopping in.

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Pre-school/Toddler story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on January 11th. Join us for a story, craft and a treat with Miss Brilyn! This is recommended for ages 2-5 but younger children are welcome with their parents/guardian. Registration is appreciated.

Book Club meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm! Join us as we explore new and different books and meet new people! No registration required- call the Library for more information and to order the next book we are reading.

Safety Day at the Library Friday January 25th – Home Alone Workshop from 9-11am-Cost \$15.

Babysitter's Workshop from 11:30 to 4:30 pm. The cost is \$25 with book included. Just Yell FIRE! Workshop for girls ages 11-13 from 4:30- 6:30 pm. Sign up for Babysitter and Just Yell FIRE! and receive a discount of \$40 for both. Registration and payment is due by January 18th. Please call 494-1120 for more information.

Winter Fun Story time January 22nd at 6:30 pm. Join us for a story or two – wintery craft and a snack – no registration necessary. Fun for all ages!

February Break Happenings! Look upcoming activities during winter break– check us out on the web at www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org.

Did you know that the Library has free digital magazines? Check it out on our website at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org . All you need is a valid Library card. Click on RBdigital – sign in with your Library Card and you are on your way!

Getting a new E-Reader for Christmas or have one now.....Check out our catalog for downloadable e-books free with a valid Nioga Library card. We have Digital movies- music- eBooks- and audio books through HOOPLA and OverDrive/Libby apps! All you have to do is stop at our website www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org to sign up with your Library Card!

If you don't find what you are looking for at the Library, we can order it for you from the NIOGA Library System. The website is www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and click on catalog to see if our system has the book you are looking for. You then can order online, call the Library at 494-1120 or stop in with your request.

The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost, Roadrunner Internet on three 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 follow us on Twitter to keep up with the latest events. For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Happy Holiday Reading -Nancy Bailey, Library Manager

From the Byron-Bergen Public Library Board of Trustees:

There will be an opening on the Board of Trustees coming January 2019. If you ever wanted to volunteer for the Library and want to make a difference in your community – send a letter to Byron-Bergen Public Library stating your interest to P.O. Box 430, Bergen NY 14416.

The Library Board meets the 2nd Monday of the month. Need to be a resident of Byron or Bergen. Call the Library at 585-494-1120 with any questions.

South Byron United Methodist Church

It is with deep regret that the administrative council of the South Byron United Methodist Church announces that the church will be closing its doors, effective July 1, 2019.

After a long history of serving in the Town of Byron, we no longer have the membership or finances to continue to do so.

There have been many weddings, baptisms, and funerals performed here over the years. Biblical teaching, local missions, and fellowship have been our main focus. We have held countless public dinners and dinners for the Kiwanis club and Byron Historical Society. We have supported the local Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts.

The church building and property will be owned by the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our historical records will also be sent there. If you have questions on any records that we may have on file you may contact the church prior to our closing date. If anyone is interested on information about the history of the church, there are some booklets available and some will be given to the Town of Byron Museum.

We may be planning some events to celebrate what the church has meant to us. If you have been driving by the church and wondered what it looks like on the inside, feel free to join us for worship at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings.

We would like to thank the residents of Byron for their support over the years and we sincerely regret the loss of a piece of the town history. May God Bless you.

Byron Presbyterian Church

Christmas at Byron Presbyterian:

We wish to thank all those who attended and supported our church as we celebrated our 200th anniversary during 2018.

As we continue into the Christmas season we wish to invite anyone in the area to join us for some holiday events and of course we always have an open invitation to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45. We will have special events throughout the Sundays of Advent.

Christmas Caroling in the town. Dec 20th starting at 6:30pm We will gather at the church at 6:30 and then walk through town singing Christmas carols as we go. We will return to the church afterward for hot chocolate and cookies. No experience necessary – just dress for the weather!!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Dec 24th @ 5pm

This family friendly service is a great way to worship as a family and a community as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. The service is about 45 minutes in length and includes music, carols, candlelight, and even a special activity pack for children. Please consider making this service a part of your holiday tradition. All are welcome!

And last but not least, the congregation of the Byron Presbyterian Church wishes the people of the town of Byron and people all over the world, a Merry Christmas and joyous 2019!

Byron Cemetery Association

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for! The Byron Cemetery Association is very grateful for the trustees and the superintendents. They are all volunteers who give many hours toward this organization and the upkeep of the cemetery.

The Byron Cemetery Association always welcomes new trustees. Cemetery plot owners or a person who has a family member who owns a plot is eligible to join this group. Contact President, Kim Dewey, (585-356-2256), if you would like to contribute to the decisions that affect the cemetery.

The Rules and Regulations of the Byron Cemetery have recently been updated to include pet burials. A beloved pet may be buried in a plot with its owner. The pet must be cremated and a Certificate of Cremation from a state approved pet crematorium must be submitted at the time of the pet's burial. Pets may be buried only after their owner has passed as well. Please contact Superintendent John Durand for more details on pet burials.

Current plot and burial prices:

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

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

There are many cemetery plots available. Contact John or Donna Durand about the eligible plots.

We know that the holiday season can be difficult for those that have lost loved ones during the year.

“Where ever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories” Author unknown.

We wish you all peace and comfort during this special time of year!

Byron Cemetery Association

Trustees:

Kim Dewey, President

Laura Bestehorn, Vice President

Barb Read Treasurer

Elaine Bezon, Secretary

Audrey Henry

Dave Leaton Jr.

Superintendents:

John Durand (585)813-3531

Donna Durand (585)813-2591



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. - Brian Forsyth	Ext. 11	
Court Clerk - Michelle Rast	Ext. 18	Cell Phone:	615-7713	
Sewer Dept.	Ext. 12	In an Emergency	585-322-0006	
CEO/ZEO – Mike Morris	Ext. 15	Assessor - Barry Flansburg	Ext. 17	Town
Justice DiMatteo	343-2770	Town Justice Smith	Ext. 18	Councilman
Jeff Thompson	851-1469	Councilman Sue Fuller	300-3456	
Councilman Jim Cudney	548-7383	Councilman Fred Klycek	548-9025	

