

Town of Byron Newsletter



Volume 1, Number 55

Supervisor

With winter already present, please be careful driving and be courteous to the snow plows on the roads as they do their work to keep the roads drivable.

We are working on Water Improvement Plan #1 so the whole Town will be covered with public water.

The solar project is ongoing with the Procedural Conference on November 13th with Administrative Law Judge Gregg Sayre presiding. This was a preliminary stage between the PSS and the application. For the whole hearing go to secretary@dps.ny.gov to read the complete minutes of the conference. For info on Excelsior Energy Center: web address is www.excelsiorenergycenter.com. You can also go on the Town website at www.byronny.com and follow the links provided. These sites will also have the Public Involvement Program Plan and form for the stakeholder list.

If anyone is interested in being on the Town Planning Board or Zoning Board please stop in and fill out a form for the boards. Also, the Park Committee and Historical Society will welcome new members as would the transfer station for attendants.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Any questions give me a call at the Town Hall at 548-7123 X14.

Roger V.V. Rouse
Supervisor

Town Clerk

It's that time of year again...you should receive your Town/County taxes by the end of December or beginning of January (unless they are escrowed with your bank), if you don't, please call me right away. Taxes are collected at the Town Hall through March 31, 2020, and can be paid by cash, check, charge (a fee applies), 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).

I hope you all have a safe and very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Debra Buck-Leaton, Town Clerk

Highway Superintendent

Hello and as of this writing Happy Thanksgiving. I not sure who is or isn't aware but I've decided to retire at the end of the term, December 31, 2019. While I won't go into all the reasons why I have a lot of people to say thank you to, so please bear with me !! First thank you (posthumously) to Lee "Bud" Cudney for giving me the opportunity to work where I chose to live and try to help my friends and neighbors in whatever way I could. Thank you to Dave Starowitz, Dave Cross and Bob Cudney for showing me the respect the job took and the mind set to do it right...it usually meant everyone else's needs came before ours. To our present day employees Brian Waldruff, Bill Kennett, Todd Cargill and Kyle Dilcher, thank you for always showing up when I and the town needed you!! I also appreciate the stuff you guys have always done "behind the scenes" to help save time , money , and help things keep moving. I can only hope the residents of this town realize what they have in you guys as a workforce. I also need to thank the two people who helped me part time in the past, Gary Bestehorn and Mike Spink, thank you guys for helping me fill a need when we were understaffed. Next, a thank you to the recycling attendants. Ed Zeitvogel, Tom Turner, Evan Harter, Pamela Plank , Ed Miller, and in the past Andy McKendrick, Daniel Turner, and Gordon Yohe. Posthumously, David Chupp, Jay Flensted and Mark O'Hara...thank you for working in all the adverse conditions and taking on the challenges of the busy Saturdays we have around here. Next thank you to Wally Kowalik for the help with parks cemeteries and filter beds and beyond. Your insight and wisdom was also greatly appreciated !! To my sister Elaine Bezon thank you for your support . After I had waded through all the bills , filings and paperwork your second set of eyes and documentation along with the moral support was greatly appreciated. And finally to my fiancée Lee, thanks for allowing me to cut so much into "our " time to go out and try to do what was right for the town. So in closing I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.....

Respectfully,
Brian

Historical Society and Town of Byron Bicentennial

Dear Community Members, Business Owners, and Organizations:

Even though our 200th Town Birthday celebration is less than nine months away we are starting to create a full schedule of events to mark this Milestone occasion; therefore requiring a great deal of advance planning. Organizers are looking for help with this important project, so we hope you will join Byron's Historical Society in collaboration with the Town Clerk's office in the planning of our Town's 200th celebration. The theme of our Bicentennial celebration will be "Spirit of America" 200 years in the making.

The next Bicentennial Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16th at the Byron Town Hall @ 7pm. Your participation will help preserve the milestones and memories made for generations to come.

We hope to see you at the meeting on Thursday, January 16th.

Byron Historical Board of Directors and Town of Byron Clerks Office



Happy Holidays!!

We are happy to announce the closing of the Library for renovations! Unfortunately- we will need to close on Nov. 27th until March 2020.

Closest Libraries to us are-

Richmond Memorial Library- Batavia- 19 Ross St.

Monday through Thursday: 9 AM – 9 PM

Friday & Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM

Holiday hours- Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Close at 5pm New Year's Eve

Woodward Memorial Library - LeRoy -7 Wolcott St.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday: 9 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Holiday hours- Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Close at 3pm New Year's Eve

Your B-B card can be used at all Nioga Libraries located in Genesee, Orleans, and Niagara Counties.

Please follow us on FaceBook and Twitter for updates or check out our website at www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org Thank you for your patience while we renovate.

If you have books to return – you are welcome to return them to any Nioga Library as well.

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! All you have to do is stop at our website www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org to sign up with your Library Card!

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!

The Library is open 24/7 using our digital platforms.

We will continue Pre-K/Toddler Story time on Fridays December 6th and 13, and the month of January starting the 10th at 10:30 am at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church 38 South Lake Ave., Bergen until the renovations are complete. So stop in and enjoy the fun.

Book Club 2nd Thursdays of the month will continue to meet at the Bergen Town Hall -10 Hunter St. Bergen- December 10- January 9th and February 13th at 7pm. All are welcome! Check out the web for our book selections.



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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!

Happy Holiday Reading -
Nancy Bailey
Library Manager

Cemetery Association

Happy Holidays to all from the Byron Cemetery Association Board!

We appreciate everyone removing their crocks/flowers for the winter. If you have not done so, please remove them now. If you plan to put a wreath or holiday decoration on a loved one's gravesite please plan to remove it by mid January.

As always we want to take a moment to thank John and Donna Durand for overseeing the day to day operations along with the help of Dave Leaton Jr. Also a huge thanks to our treasurer, Kate Wride, who is transferring our records to digital format.

Our annual meeting will be held in April 2020. Watch for further information. We will also be planning a "Cemetery Walk" as part of the town of Byron's 200th Anniversary. Do you know of a "ghost" story? Or unusual happenings in our town? Let us know. Please contact Kim Dewey via cell or email – [585-356-2256](tel:585-356-2256)/dew99@juno.com. We would love to hear your tale!

As we approach the holiday season, we take a moment to count our blessings. We ask everyone to watch out for your friends and neighbors. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one in the past year this can be a difficult time. Reach out if you need help. Reach out to someone you know that might need a smile or kind word.

**THE FIRST CHRISTMAS AFTER
SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES IS HARD**

YOU MAY NOT FEEL LIKE CELEBRATING

YOU MAY GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS FOR OTHERS, ESPECIALLY KIDS

GIFT YOURSELF WITH A PACE AND SPACE. LET YOURSELF CRY...OR EVEN LAUGH.

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST MAY FEEL BITTERSWEET

LEAN ON OTHERS TO HELP YOU GET THROUGH IT

THE DAY MAY SURPRISE YOU IN MANY WAYS

YOU MAY EVEN START A NEW TRADITION TO KEEP THEIR MEMORY ALIVE.

AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, REJOICE IN THE LIFE THEY LIVED AND REMEMBER THE LOVE.

TAPS
800-959-TAPS ★ www.taps.org

Genesee County Legislator, Robert Bausch

The county legislature has been busy this fall. In late October the Governor signed the new Genesee County / City of Batavia 40 year sales tax legislation approving a new sales tax agreement. This allowed the county to move forward on a number of projects.

In early October I wrote to the Commission on Correction (COC) and stated the jail project could not go forward until a source of funding was secured. The COC had been very understanding over the years but stated that Genesee County's jail, with areas over 100 year old, was inadequate and no legislator disagreed. With their support and the efforts of Senator Ranzenhofer, Assembly Hawley and many others on both sides of the political aisle the Governor signed the legislation which secured the required funding. The most recent design is for a 185 bed facility at a cost of \$60,000,000, the most expensive capital project ever undertaken by Genesee County. The costs are projected to be covered by the new sales tax agreement with no increase in property taxes.

With the new sales tax agreement, the county can continue with Phase 2 & 3 of the county wide water project. An important aspect of the agreement was that the city water plant, which supplies approximately one third of county's water needs, will be decommissioned and replaced by Monroe and Erie County water. This will result in both significant savings and the elimination of a number of health concerns.

Last, but certainly not least, as one of only five counties in the state responsible for all local bridges over five feet on county roads plus on town roads and village and city streets, long term funding for needed bridge replacement has now been secured. The significance of this agreement and benefit to all residents of Genesee of County cannot be overstated.

Starting in late summer contracts were released for Phase 2 of the water project. Site work has begun in Chili, Churchville and LeRoy on North Rd. and Valance Rd. The anticipation is that water will be flowing by June, 2020 making the continual expansion of the water systems in Byron and Bergen possible.

The other major activity for the legislature this fall has been the 2020 budget which has been approved and requires a \$0.07 per thousand tax rate increase. Unfortunately the tax increase will only cover about half the cost of implementing New York State's new bail reform and discovery laws. Those two NYS laws will have significant impact on NYS residents from a financial as well as a safety perspective.

This is my last newsletter as my term ends in December. I wish to thank the Towns of Byron and Bergen for making this space available to me. I also want to thank everyone for the support you have shown me over the past ten years as I have served as your legislator. My replacement, Christian Yunker, will be an excellent legislator and I look forward to having him serve our legislative district.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous and Happy New Year!!!!



From the Town Historians

The History of the Grange

From the 1938 Official Directory & History of Genesee County Granges

HOW THE GRANGE BEGAN

Like most things that endure, the Grange was projected upon a need. That need was the strong desire of rural people for a council circle of their own in which there would be sympathy, understanding and mutual helpfulness.

Because the Grange has been from the first not merely an organization, but a fraternity, it has acquired a unique place in the affairs of agriculture and the nation. It is a fraternity which limits its membership to persons engaged in agricultural pursuits and which has found this exclusiveness, its source of power and prestige.

The Grange is patterned after Masonry. It was conceived in the mind of Oliver Hudson Kelley in 1866. A northerner, in 1866 he was sent by the President of the United States to survey the agriculture of the South. He felt that he might meet with resentment. He was a Mason and as such was cordially received. Pondering on this, he developed the idea of a farm fraternity that would make for equal hospitality wherever a member traveled or had intercourse.

Mr. Kelley had been for years a farm leader in Minnesota. He continued in farm work until 1864. Owing to a partial crop failure he accepted a clerkship in the Department of Agriculture at Washington. After the Civil War the department decided that he was the man to proceed through the southern states to take note of agricultural conditions.

Returned from the South, he was convinced that the wounds of war would never be healed by politicians. He believed that better mutual acquaintance of northerners and southerners, breaking down of sectionalism, and emphasis on the brotherhood of man, were the keystones in any program to bind up the wounds of war. Devoted to the soil which he tilled, he cherished the idea that farmers would play a major part in this work. Men and women with whom he discussed his plan encouraged him.

By May, 1867, he believed that the time had come to launch the fraternity. In the actual work of founding the Order of Patrons of Husbandry he was assisted by six other men, who with Kelley are known as the Seven Founders. Miss Carrie A. Hall, his niece, was given equal recognition because she encouraged Kelley and for years labored with him to make it bear fruit. In fact, when the Grange was merely a dream in Kelley's mind, it was she who encouraged him to overcome difficulties to make it a material thing.

Of the seven founders it is interesting to note that two of them were clergymen. One of them wrote the ritual of the first four degrees. The men who founded the Grange envisioned the spiritual, as well as the material, needs of rural America. They were earnest workers in the open country who through days of following the plow or gleaning the fields communed with nature. That the seasons followed one another, that from tiny seeds crops sprang, that great and mysterious things were happening all about them did not surprise them because they believed in an all-powerful Supreme Being.

Thus the founders were fervent men who believed in the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God upon which the fraternity was founded. – L. B. Skeffington.

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The original Byron Grange No. 395 was organized in April, 1876, with 22 charter members. The old records show that, in addition to the charter members, fifty-one joined the Grange. There is no record of any joining the original Grange after November 1879. The interest eventually dying down, the organization sold its property, and used the proceeds for a farewell supper in November 1887. The present Grange was reorganized in March, 1890, with eleven charter members, only one of whom was a charter member of the first grange – William S. Green, who was largely instrumental in reorganization. The first meetings were held over what was then the Seaver and Hall Store. The first meeting at a private home was held with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Walker, and for some years meetings were held at private homes until the Grange became so large they met at Byron, South Byron and North Bergen Churches. In 1924, they met at the Byron I.O.O.F Hall. A Juvenile Grange was formed in 1932. Mrs. Harry Pfann was the first Matron.

On October 11, 1935, the Grange bought the North Byron Baptist Church from Jackson Filkins, paying one thousand dollars. The bells were sold for four hundred dollars before given possession.

Following considerable remodeling, the first meeting was held in February 1936, in this building. Mrs. Lewis Burling took an active part in the Grange, being Treasurer for thirty years, and Mrs. Harold Ivison was secretary for twenty-two years.

Due to lack of interest in the Grange, it was voted to turn over the Grange Building and contents and Charter to the State Grange on May 1, 1969. Earl Duttweiler was the last Master in charge.

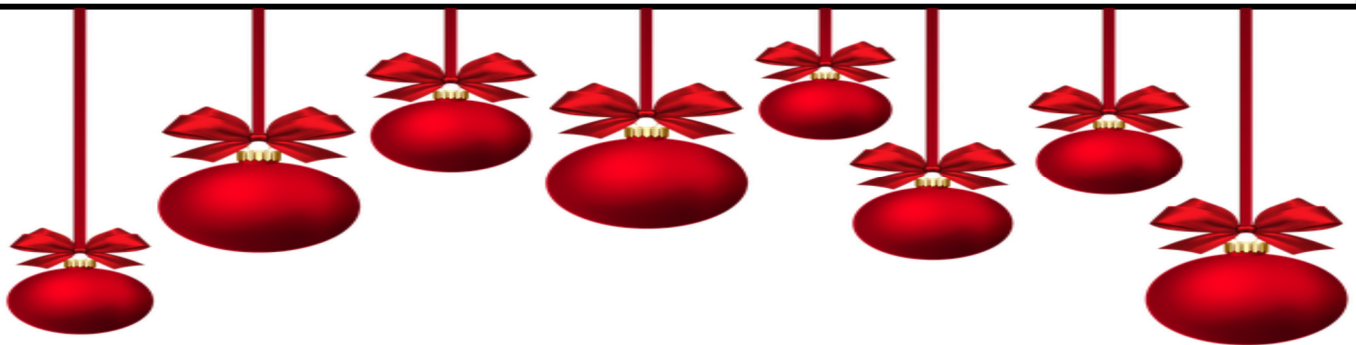
Before the Grange disbanded, a farewell supper was served to the Grangers at South Byron Methodist Church, honoring the Golden Sheaf and Silver Star members and Past Masters.

The building is now a private home on Pumpkin Hill in North Byron.

Thomas Roach, our present Chaplain, has held the office nearly 12 years as of 1938. The officers of the Byron Grange in 1938 as follows:

Worthy Master, Edward Hottois; Overseer, Edgar Wilson; Lecturer, Mrs. Burton Bateman; Steward, Robert Weinert; Assistant Steward, Roger Duttweiler; Chaplin, Rev. S. H. Bliss; Treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth Burling; Secretary, Mrs. Nettie DeWolf; Gatekeeper, Marion Tyler; Pomona, Thelma Scoins; Ceres, Dorothy Lawrence; Flora, Norma Bateman; Lady Assistant Steward, Anna Bater; Flag Bearer, Seth Cook; Trustees, Harry Pfann, John Searles, E. L. Godfrey; Juvenile Matron, Mrs. Frank Lawrence.

Also listed is the Silver Star Members, whom had 25 years or more in the organization. There were about 58 families listed. There were about 240 families listed as members.



Byron Solar Discussion @ The Byron Hotel

Monday Evenings @ 7pm in the Dining Room

All members of the Byron community are welcome to attend and encouraged to do so.

Discussions have included the Article 10 process, impacts to the Town of Byron, updates on proceedings and general comments both for and against the proposed project.

Contact information available to the Excelsior Project and Public Service Commission.

Many questions and concerns you may have could be addressed.

Input on Benefits the Town could realize from the project.

A representative of Next ERA Energy is typically there .

Breakfast With Santa

Pancake breakfast on Sunday, December 8th from 10:00 am—1:00 pm at the Byron Fire Hall.

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—Morgan Leaton	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	