



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

September, October, November 2023



Editor: Michele Smith

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF TOWN SUPERVISOR *Ernie Haywood*

We have begun working on the 2024 Bergen Town Budget. There are several challenges, most significant of which is the once again cut in sales tax shared by Genesee County. I have discussed this issue in past newsletter articles, but it really strikes home as we begin work on yet another budget, with yet another cut in sales tax.

The Town of Bergen received \$710,416 of sales tax in 2019. In 2024, the county share \$464,817 with the Town. The 35% reduction is actually equivalent to what Bergen budgeted to repair and maintain our town roads this year. It is a significant share of the Town of Bergen budget (sales tax covered 34% of the Town's annual budget back in 2019).

One unknown in the budget is whether voters will support the library district proposition on the ballot November 7. If the library proposition fails, funding of the library will remain in the Town of Bergen and likely be carried at the current level. If the library proposition passes, the Town of Bergen would remove that amount from our budget and whatever library budget is approved by voters would become a new separate tax levy on the town and county tax bill.

The Town of Bergen is delaying our budget public hearing on the 2024 budget until November 14 so that we will know the results of the library district vote before adoption. We are still not clear whether the creation of the district would take place immediately and thus impact the 2024 budget, or if there would be a one-year delay and the first library district tax not levied until the 2025 town and county budget.

Our grant application to the New York State's Consolidated Fund Application and Environmental Protection Agency was submitted in July. We are seeking funds for the installation of a restroom at the front of the park.

We are completing paperwork to close out the Water District project with Rural Development. We will be required to have another federal single audit for 2023 at the end of the fiscal year. The funds to pay for that audit will come from the project. I am pleased to share that the project was completed within budget.

Be sure to vote in November and enjoy our always lovely autumn!

Ernie Haywood, Supervisor





Progress continues on many of the Counties' major projects. The Jail we are constructing is progressing very well. Most of the work remaining is interior. The project continues to be on time with a scheduled completion date of January 2024. Despite a few change orders, the project remains well within our budget. To date this has been a very well run and successful construction project.

We are looking to wrap up phase 2 of the water infrastructure project this Summer that included many pump station improvements and water line upsizing. There has been an incredible amount of time and effort that has been put into efforts to obtain outside dollars from elected officials in the State and Federal level to put towards phase 3 our water project. We recently secured \$2 million dollars from Senator Gillibrand's office this Summer. Every dollar obtained from outside sources is dollars we don't need to obtain from our local taxpayers and water users. The most recent estimates show that phase 3 total costs will exceed \$150 million that includes closing of the 100-year-old Batavia City water plant.

We continue to work on contract with Mercy Flight to support their ambulance service throughout the County. EMS service is under incredible pressure throughout Upstate NY for coverage as these service providers continue to struggle with costs and labor supply. We are fortunate to have this provider in our County and look to strengthen and support them with a contractual relationship with deliverables for Ambulance coverage throughout the County. This should be in place sometime this Fall.

Work has begun on 2024 budgets. Like all municipalities, costs continue to rise. We have 2 of our largest unions negotiations this Fall. We will continue to run the County with fiscal responsibility while striving to provide exceptional service.

Genesee County is very excited to be in the direct path of totality for the 2024 Solar eclipse. There is advanced planning for this once in a lifetime event on April 8, 2024. There is planning for our community to see potentially tens to hundreds of thousands of additional people that day in our County. See <http://geneseetheeclipse.com/>. As always, feel free to reach out anytime.



This year's summer reading program "All Together Now!" was a success!!! Over 215 children participated and read over 59,700 minutes! This year we had a Teen/Adult reading program too! Over 78 people participated and read over 234 books!!



Thank you to all our junior volunteers! Our junior volunteers gave up 150 hours to help with our summer reading program! They won fun prizes every week – tickets from Seabreeze Amusement Park too. We couldn't have done it with out your help!

Thank you for your continued support of our summer reading program: Demo's Truck Parts, Seabreeze Amusement Park, Tops Friendly Markets of Leroy, Target of Batavia, Wal-Mart of Brockport, McDonalds and Wegmans in Brockport. Without the generous donations of these merchants, our summer reading program wouldn't be possible.

Discover us on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org , Facebook and Instagram too!

If you pay for Audible and Kindle books -- We have Overdrive/Libby app with digital audio and e-books-- digital magazines, and Hoopla app with -- digital music-movies-books-audio. All this is FREE with your valid Library card anytime you have access to the Internet.



Our Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on September 14th to discuss the book Firefly Lane by Kristin Hannah. This group meets the 2nd Thursday each month: October 12th, November 9th, and December 14th.

Come join the fun!

Pre-school/Toddler story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 15th. Join us for a story, craft and a treat! This is recommended for ages 2-5 but younger children are welcome with their parents/guardian. **Registration is appreciated.**

Chair Yoga with Colleen on September 19th, October 3rd, and October 17th at 4pm! Colleen is a certified yoga instructor so come join the fun and get fit! Please sign up by September 15th- Space is limited.

Wood Vase workshop with Kim on Thursday September 21st at 6:30pm! Come make a crafty and cool wooden vase to decorate! All supplies will be provided to construct the vase. The cost is \$15 a vase. Sign- up by Sept 19th to reserve your spot!

Join us for a fun night with the Bergen Historical Society on October 5th at 7pm as we present History of Oktoberfest with Marianna Gonzalez. Marianna will give us some fun insight to the why of the Oktoberfest. No registration necessary. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

Boxmaking with Laura Jackett on Tuesday October 17th at 6pm. We will learn how to cut bookboard with a straight edge and exacto knife, glue the pieces together and choose your favorite Japanese paper to wrap the box in. Recommended for ages 12 and up or a younger child with adult supervision.

Registration is necessary by calling us or stopping in. Space is limited. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

Paint with Stari Ari on Saturday October 21st at 10:30am. Come find out new ways to paint using shaving cream. Recommended for grades 2nd to 5th or younger children with parent supervision. Space is limited so sign up soon.

Fall Décor Workshop with Leslie Hill on Tuesday October 24th at 6pm or Saturday October 28th at 10:30am. Come make an autumn theme table decoration using flowers, pumpkins and more. Sign up by October 20th. -- space is limited. Cost is \$5 per person. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

Stop by the Library on Halloween to get a treat! Costumes welcome! We are open from 10-1 & 2-7. Happy Halloween!

Edible & Medicinal plants in you Garden with Joel Humphrey on Thursday November 2nd at 7pm. Join us with the Bergen Historical Society as we learn the history and helping properties of plants. No registration necessary.

Join us on Wednesday November 15th from 5 pm to 7 pm for a Thanksgiving Craft night. All ages welcome to come make a fun craft or two to help decorate for Thanksgiving holiday.

The Library will be closed November 23rd – 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Have a Great Thanksgiving!

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, 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 to keep up with the latest events. We are also on Instagram! For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Happy Reading-
Nancy Bailey
Library Manager

The Byron-Bergen Public Library is working toward becoming self-sustaining. Join members of the Byron-Bergen Library Board of Trustees on either of the following dates for more specific information and to answer any questions you may have:

Thursday, October 12

7:00 PM

Byron Fire Hall - 6357 Townline Rd., Byron

OR

Tuesday, October 17

7:00 PM

Sage Pavilion - 18 North Lake Avenue, Bergen

HUNTING LICENSES ARE ON SALE

A portion of all sales of NYS Hunting and Fishing Licenses purchased in the Town of Bergen stays in the Town of Bergen, so purchase your licenses at the Town Clerk’s office during regular business hours. If you purchased a lifetime license you can pick up your free DMP permits. DMP permits are available until October 1st 2/\$10 with the purchase of a 2023-2024 hunting license. **Extra DMP’s will be available starting Wednesday, November 1st** on a first come first serve basis also 2/\$10 or free if first set was already purchased.



DOG LICENSES

ALL DOGS, four months of age or older need to be licensed along with proof of rabies vaccination and neutering or spaying, if applicable, must be presented at the time of licensing. Dog licenses are due yearly from the date of licensing, if your dog’s license renewal is due or past due, please take care of it so we don’t have to send you a reminder notice or eventually a court appearance ticket. Please take care of any overdue or unlicensed dogs as soon as possible. Renewals can always be mailed in as long as there is updated rabies information sent along with payment. If your dog has died or you no longer own it, please let me know so I can take it out of the system.



ANTI-RABIES CLINICS

Each dog, cat and ferret must be accompanied by someone who can control it. Vaccinations are free for Genesee County residents but a \$5.00 voluntary donation per animal is requested to offset clinic expenses. Non-county residents must pay a mandatory \$5.00 fee per animal immunized:

October 12th – Genesee County Fairgrounds 5031 E. Main St. Batavia 4:00 – 7:00 PM



Town Clerk Office Closings:

- September 4th – Labor Day
- October 9th – Columbus Day
- November 24th – Thanksgiving Holiday



Town Clerk Hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
8:00 AM – Noon & 1:00 – 5:00 PM
- Friday
8:00 AM – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00 PM
- Closed on Thursday & Saturdays

ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS

If you are leaving town for the winter, please leave your winter address with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector to mail your Town & County Tax Bill to avoid any late fees. All Tax Bills are mailed on December 31st and are due by January 31st without penalty.

**Michele Smith, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
494-1121 Ext. 21**





Election Day Tuesday, November 7th

(District 1 & 2 at the Bergen Town Hall 6:00 am – 9:00 pm)

**Voter Registration and absentee ballot forms
available at the Town Clerk's Office**

Early Voting at ARC Community Center 38 Woodrow Rd. Batavia

Saturday, October 28th – 9am-5pm

Sunday, October 29th – 9am-5pm

Monday, October 30th – 9am-5pm

Tuesday, October 31st – 12pm-8pm

Wednesday, November 1st – 12pm-8pm

Thursday, November 2nd – 9am-5pm

Friday, November 3rd – 9am-5pm

Saturday, November 4th – 9am-5pm

Sunday, November 5th – 9am-5pm

BERGEN NEWSLETTER

10 HUNTER STREET

BERGEN, NY 14416

bergenny.org