

TOWN OF BERGEN Newsletter

From the Desk of Town Supervisor,
Ernie Haywood....



September, October,
November 2025

We have begun work on the installation of a restroom at Robins Brook Park. Thompson Builds was awarded the contract for the foundation work following a competitive bid process. Much of the building will be constructed by the BOCES building trades program with the Town providing materials. Our highway crew will perform some of the construction also, namely water, septic and site work. The accessible restroom is located near the current playing fields and pavilion.

We have met with a consultant about the possibility of a spray park and playground for Robins Brook and have begun looking into grant opportunities. The county helps fund grant opportunities so exploring the possibilities is done at very little cost to the Town. We are also still considering bocce courts as we want Robins Brook to have a variety of recreational opportunities for our residents. At Drews Nature Center, a group

of BOCES students will be working on the trails and species identification this fall.

Our project to put an addition on the current Town Hall at 10 Hunter Street is on hold for now. We are currently exploring all options to achieve greater efficiencies in operations and cost. Our goal is to have town hall functions under one roof (for the convenience of residents and efficiency of staff); to provide adequate, safe records retention for town and court records; and to reduce operational costs across several buildings. I will continue to update residents as we narrow our options and make a final determination.

We were just notified that we did not receive a grant from NYS for Records Retention which would have helped defray the costs of some of the building changes we are pursuing. The Records Retention grant is an annual opportunity so we may try again in 2026. Under the leadership of Justice Pulcini, we are working

Bergen Town Supervisor
Ernie Haywood
494-1121 ext. 122

Deputy Supervisor
Belinda Grant

Town Board
Jim Starowitz
Karen Ely
Mark Swanson

Town Clerk
Teresa Robinson
494-1121 ext. 120

Highway Superintendent
Joel Pocock
494-1121 ext. 300

Assessor Rhonda Saulsbury
494-1121 ext. 100

Planning/Zoning Gerry Wood
(585) 490-4152

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on a grant application to the NYS Justice Court to replace court room chairs and help provide a space for attorneys to meet with clients privately. Thank you to Justice Pulcini for taking the lead on that grant application. We are also awaiting notification on a joint grant application with the Village of Bergen for funding update to our joint Comprehensive Plan.

The Town reached a new four-year agreement with the Teamsters Union which represents our highway crew. The negotiations were very cordial and professional and resulted in significant savings for the Town and employees regarding health insurance. Thank you to our crew for this successful contract negotiation.

The Town Clerk and I attended full-day Cyber Security Training by the

Department of Homeland Security. The Town continues to update policies and install safety features to keep our data secure.

We are full swing into the 2026 budget season and have gathered input from all of our department heads. Bergen was the second fastest growing town in Genesee County according to construction data. This gives us a little extra room in our tax cap calculations and also helps spread the tax levy out over properties. Some of the challenges we face are rising retirement system costs, the rising cost of road salt and some infrastructure repairs that need to be undertaken – both on roads and on buildings.

Best wishes for everyone headed back to school this fall!

Ernie Haywood, Supervisor

Town Board Meetings
Sept. 9, 2025 7:00 pm
Oct. 14 , 2025 7:00 pm
Nov. 18, 2025 7:00 pm

From the Desk of County Legislator Christian Yunker.....

Summer has flown by and we are gearing up for Fall at the County which is also budget time. This process is long and thorough. This year will no doubt have its challenges as we look to future with many uncertainties and focusing through the lenses of the taxpayers of the County. More to come in future updates.

The County of Genesee has partnered with the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce to launch a Place Branding initiative. This project will identify our county's unique

sense of place and develop a brand identity and vision to drive economic and workforce development, tourism, and quality of life. A clear, unified brand will help all county agencies share our story more effectively, integrating and amplifying our strengths across multiple channels.

On September 30th the great event of GLOW With Your Hands will happen. This hands-on program that invites over 1000 students across the region is opening doors for kids in local schools to explore high-demand careers in manufacturing, agriculture, skilled trades,



and healthcare. By connecting students directly with potential career paths, we're inspiring the next generation and addressing workforce needs in key industries.

Genesee County adopted the Genesee 2050 Comprehensive Plan which was prepared in coordination with the community and local government stakeholders. The County understood that this was just the beginning of the planning process and it continues to be fluid, ongoing activity involving over 175 individuals from various levels/units of government, nonprofit agencies, business and industry, and interested citizens working together with the County Manager's Office and Legislature. Our forward-looking blueprint for the future, this plan addresses housing, land use, transportation, agriculture, and food production, along

with other vital priorities to guide how our county will grow while preserving what makes our community strong.

Our County-wide Fire Service Committee continues to meet regularly. The discussions have been productive and collaborative, with departments working together to improve efficiency and communication. Broadband expansion is all but complete for all remaining address points in the County. We expect to wrap up Phase 2 of our water infrastructure project by Spring of 2026 with the last of the pump upgrades. An incredible amount of work has gone into the planning for our future water needs of the County. We have been projecting our needs for the next 50-100 years. This will be no small feat but it remains the top priority of the Legislature. Please reach out anytime with any questions or concerns you may have.

From the Desk of Highway Superintendent, Joel Pocock.....

As the summer comes to an end, the highway department is hard at work transitioning from summer roadwork to preparing for winter. This season is a critical time for us, as we take on final road repairs and perform maintenance work to ensure our roads are safe and ready for the colder months ahead. Please be patient and drive carefully around our crews as they work to finish the season strong. Thank you for your cooperation!

Drainage work: Crews are cleaning ditches, culverts, and storm drains to ensure proper water flow and prevent flooding and ice formation during winter.

Brush and tree removal: We are

trimming or removing brush and trees along roadways and intersections to improve visibility and safety.

Fall Driving Safety: Shorter days and changing weather conditions require extra caution when driving this time of year.

- Visibility:** With less daylight, morning and evening commutes will be in the dark, reducing visibility. Drive slowly and ensure your headlights are functioning properly.

- Watch for wildlife:** Autumn is a peak season for deer activity. Be especially cautious at dusk and dawn and drive slowly in wooded areas.

Continued....

- **Wet leaves:** Fallen leaves on the road can be as slick as ice when wet. Slow down, particularly when turning or braking, to avoid losing traction.

Fog and frost: Early morning fog and frost are common in the fall. Slow down and increase your following distance in these Conditions.

A note on snowplows: As we prepare our winter fleet, we want to remind all residents about snowplow safety. Plows are wide and need extra room to maneuver. Never follow a snowplow too closely and give them plenty of space to work. If you can't see the driver's mirrors, they can't see you.

How You Can Help? Working together helps us serve the community more efficiently.

Report issues: If you spot a pothole, damaged sign, or other road-related issue, please report it to us through our website or by phone.

Stay Connected:

Website: Townofbergenny.gov

Phone: [585-494-1362]

Email: [highwaysup@bergenny.org]



From the Desk of Town Clerk, Teresa Robinson....

The NY State Department of Conservation (DEC) has a new mobile app it allows hunters, anglers and trappers to display an electronic copy of their license on their phone. The app is completely FREE. For more information regarding DEC rules & regulations, visit their website at www.dec.ny.gov.



currently on file.

Be sure to check out the Town's new website at townofbergenny.gov. The newsletters, town board agendas and meeting minutes can all be found on our website. We now have printable forms!

Election Day—November 4th.

****Reminder****

Polling location is now at the Gilliam Grant Community Center.



Town Clerk Hours:

Monday – Thursday

8 am – 4:30 pm

Closed from 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Friday 8 am—11 am

Evening hours available by appointment

494-1121 ext. 120

The Clerks' office will be closed for the following Holidays:

Sept. 4th Labor Day

Nov. 11th Veterans Day

Nov. 23 & 24 Thanksgiving Holiday

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Please have your dog licensed. Every dog 4 months of age in NY State should be licensed with the town. An updated rabies certificate will be needed if it's not

From the Desk of Town Historian, Tom Tiefel....

As we see late summer winding down, it made me think of our fair season of July and August. Whether it's county fairs or the state fair, some of us who are old enough to remember the hustle and bustle of getting our children ready for their participation in the Grange fair exhibits. We don't see much of the Grange anymore, but once upon a time, it was a staple of our community so large that the only thing that could rival it was our school system. It was a staple, and many children were eager to participate and get their chance to compete with other Grange organizations throughout the state. Bergen was no exception.

On April 17th, 1874 the Bergen Grange (#163) Patrons of Husbandry was chartered. The purpose of the Grange is to foster agricultural progress for the enrichment of rural life and the improvement of living standards for the entire Nation. Once the Bergen Grange was established, they met once every two weeks on Saturday. From 1874 until 1901, they would meet at the homes of members, the G.A.R Hall, and the Fireman's Hall. From 1901 until 1914, they rented space at the Odd Fellows Hall for \$1.33 (per month) for one hall, or \$3 if they needed both halls.

In 1914, they purchased the Episcopal Church for \$900 and the first meeting was held there in November of 1914.

In 1916, the Grange contributed 10 cents per member toward establishing a Farm Bureau in Genesee County and the same amount towards the Red Cross Ambulance. Also that year, they donated \$11 for shrubbery at the Village Park and they sent \$25 to San



Francisco to aid the sufferers of the "Suitcase Bomber" (During the Preparedness Day parade on July 22, 1916, a suitcase bomb was detonated, killing ten and wounding 40 in the worst attack in San Francisco's history.) In 1923, the Grange allowed the school the use of their building as the school had burned.

The Juvenile (Junior) Grange was organized in 1927. Among many things, the Grange contributed to the community they sponsored a Little League Baseball team from 1958 - 1963, a Brownie Troop in 1961, and 1964, and a Girl Scout Troop 1963. The Bergen Grange remained strong throughout the 1970's-the early 1990's. Attendance has gradually reduced over the last few decades, but Bergen Grange #163 is still listed on the NYS Grange roster.

Lastly, I wish to thank the BBCSD for another great 4th grade field trip! The students were full of great questions and as always, they enjoyed learning about their town's rich history. The museum will remain open by appointment until the weather no longer permits. If you're planning on going "Trick or Treating" this Halloween, be sure to visit the museum and get some goodies. We will once again have our annual "Halloween Night At The Museum" event from 6-9pm. Hot cider and coffee will be available too!

As always, the Historian's office is located at 15 S. Lake Ave and if you have any questions or need assistance in research, call me at 494-0080 or find us on Facebook at Hardford Livery Museum and I will be happy to assist you.

Library hours

Sunday and Monday – Closed
Tues. 10-1 and 2-7
Weds. 10-1 and 2-7
Thurs. 10-1 and 2-7
Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-1

The Library has copy /fax / scanning service for a small cost, Spectrum Internet on three computers, Wi-Fi and interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system. You can follow us on Facebook. If you would like to get on our e-mail list – just call us or e-mail your information to byrbgn@nioga.org For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

This year's summer reading program "Color our World" was a success!!! Over 250 children participated and read over 123,683 minutes!

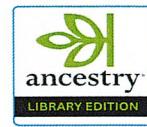
This year we had a Teen/Adult reading program too! Over 90 people participated and read over 279 books!!

Thank you to all our junior volunteers! Our junior volunteers gave up 146 hours to help with our summer reading program! They won fun prizes every week! We couldn't have done it without your help!

Thank you for your continued support of our summer reading program: Demo's Truck Parts Inc, Tops Friendly Markets of Leroy, Batavia Muckdogs, and McDonald's of 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, Hoopla app with – digital music-movies--books-audio, Kanopy – digital movies and tv shows, Blackstone Unlimited- digital audio books. All this is FREE with your valid Library card anytime you have access to the Internet.



The Library is more than just books- We have available for you to use at the Library Ancestry.com- Search billions of records and discover your family story. Use is limited to on-site at the Library. Education Station is Ready-to-use, hands-on activities for pre-k to 5th grade kids. - look for this on our website www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and click the icon to get connected.

Our Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on September 11th to discuss the book School for Good Mothers by Jessamine Chan. This group meets the 2nd Thursday each month: October 9th, November 13th, and December 11th. Come join the fun!

Pre-school/Toddler story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 12th. Join us for a story, craft and play time!

This is recommended for ages 2-5 but younger children are welcome with their parents/guardian. **Registration is appreciated.**

Chair Yoga with Colleen is on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 4pm starting September 9th! Colleen is a certified yoga instructor so come join the fun and get fit! Please sign up by September 6th- Space is limited.

Byron-Bergen Public Library Board of Trustees meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:00pm. This meeting is open to the public.

Bergen Historical Meeting is on September 4th at 7pm Join them at the Library for a special guest speaker. No Registration required all ages welcome! The Bergen Historical Society meets at the Library October 2nd and November 6th with special programs at 7pm – save the dates!

Join us September 17th - the third Wednesday of the month for a special Art in the Afternoon program- Come anytime from 4pm to 6pm. Geared toward 10-15-year-old, but open to all ages! For this program you will be making your own beaded phone charms/bracelets! Sign up is appreciated, but not mandatory. Save the date for Oct. 22nd, Nov.18th and Dec. 16th -more info to follow.

Medicare Discount Program Assistance September 20th or October 1st at 10:30am. Come join Matt Weit at the Library as he explains the updates to the Medicare system and how changes may affect you. No registration necessary.

Book Making with Laura September 23rd at 11:30am. Calling all homeschoolers! We have a program led by Laura Jackett that will be held at the Byron-Bergen Public Library. You will learn to make a Kaleidoscope book that opens like a fan or a DNA Helix. Students will develop science skills through the construction of these books, and math skills through the necessary measurements to make well-built books. You will get to keep the book you make in this class, which will help promote writing and creativity for kids after-

wards! Sign up by September 19th–space is limited! This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re-grant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO Art!

September 25th at 6:30pm “Fun with Friends” programs return to the Library with a messy, fun-filled night of paint! Make sure to wear something you don’t mind getting messy, and bring some friends or make some new ones to create a fall themed painting led by Morgan Wagner. No art experience necessary, so usher in the fall season with a festive creation! This is a program for teens and adults, and space is limited so sign up soon–no later than Tuesday, September 23rd. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re-grant 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!

Collaborative Storytelling with Master Storyteller Jacob September 27th, October 11th and November 8th at 10:30am. Join us at the Library for this new fall session, called Shadowdark, and embark on a survival quest through cavernous dungeons led by Master Storyteller Jacob Seward! Shadowdark RPG is focused on dungeon crawling, has fast-paced gameplay, and a dark, gritty atmosphere! We hope you won’t be too frightened to join us! Sign up is appreciated, but not mandatory.

This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re-grant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO Art!

Read to a Dog at the Library September 27th at 11am! Some special furry patrons will be joining us at the Library—trained therapy dogs from RocDogs! These doggies love being read to, petted, and adored!

Open to kids and their families! No sign up necessary. If you can't come this Saturday they will be visiting the 4th Saturday of each month—mark your calendars for Oct. 25th, and Nov. 22nd

Defensive Driving Class October 1st from 9am-3:30pm. Join us at the Byron-Bergen Public Library for this Defensive Driving Class through AAA led by Vicky Kantor! There will be a half hour break for lunch (not provided). **Cost is \$39.00 and have checks made payable to AAA.** You must register and pay before Friday, Sept. 26th to take the course.

Join Kimberly from Bustling Brush for another fun “Fun with Friends” night out on October 8th at 6:30. This fun adult/teen craft night will have a fall/autumn theme craft. Sign up by September 30th to join the fun. Space is limited.

Come visit the Library Trunk during the community Trunk or Treat October 18th at Hickory Park, Village of Bergen. More information coming soon!

Stop by the Library on Halloween to get a treat! Costumes welcome! We are open from 10-6. Happy Halloween!

November Fun with Friends will be posted soon on our website.

The Library will be closed November 28th – 30th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Have a Great Thanksgiving!

Happy Reading— Nancy Bailey,
Library Manager

From the Bergen Fire Department.....



So far in 2025, members of the Bergen Volunteer Fire Department have collectively logged approximately 3,000 hours of training. With an average attendance of 28 members at our training nights, we are on track to complete nearly 5,000 hours of training by the end of the year.

A strong turnout at our training events, combined with a wide variety of hands-on scenarios utilizing all of our equipment, ensures that when your time of need arises, your family, friends, and neighbors are prepared—knowledgeable, capable, and swift in their efforts to restore safety and security.

But being part of the Bergen Volunteer Fire Department offers more than just the chance to serve in firefighting or EMS. It's an opportunity to be part of something bigger. Every call answered and every moment of service weaves strength into our community, while building pride and purpose within each of us.

If you're interested in learning more—or ready to take the first step in serving your community—stop by any Monday night to meet our Chief and fellow members. You can also call and leave a message for more information at:

Bergen Fire Department
10 Hunter St, Bergen, NY 14416
 (585) 494-2100

TOWN OF BERGEN BUILDING PERMITS

Building permit applications can be picked up at the Town Hall, 10 Hunter St. or on our website at townofbergenny.gov. Please reach out to our Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer Gerry Wood at 585-490-4152 with any questions.

When do I need a building permit?

- ◆ New building
- ◆ Additions
- ◆ Decks
- ◆ Chimney & solid fuel permits
- ◆ Generator
- ◆ Solar roof panels
- ◆ Roof
- ◆ Fence
- ◆ Woodburning stove/fireplace/furnace
- ◆ Mobile home installation
- ◆ Pond
- ◆ Sign
- ◆ Hot tub/spa
- ◆ Swimming pools including decks
- ◆ Remodeling to habitable space (ie garages & porches)
- ◆ Demolition
- ◆ Variance
- ◆ Special use permit
- ◆ Public hearing fee

- ◆ Work commenced without a building permit will include an additional \$100.00 fee plus the cost of the permit..
- ◆ Permit renewal - 6 months each occurrence (max. 2) New permit after 2.
- ◆ Temporary C.O.– 6 months each occurrence (max. 2) New permit after 2.
- ◆ Fire and or safety inspections (ie to sell or buy a dwelling, etc.).
- ◆ Miscellaneous inspections (not included in above).

**IF YOUR NOT SURE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO GERRY WOOD ZEO/CEO
TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU START A PROJECT.**



From the Byron—Bergen Civic Association....



BBCA

WHERE BERGEN GROWS COMMUNITY



We are excited to be working on the 50th Edition of the Bergen Phone Directory! The Beloved directory that keeps our community connected and a place to find the many local businesses the Bergen Proudly Supports!

To confirm your correct address and phone number or to be added, please reply via email to

bbcaphonebook@gmail.com

Please respond no later than 9/30/2025

Celebrating the
50th Edition
2025/2026
Bergen Phone
Directory



HALLOW'S EVE FESTIVAL OCT 18 TH,
HICKORY PARK, BERGEN, NY



Food Trucks, DJ, Games & ,
Campfire
Costume Parade @ 5:30
Trunk or Treat
5:30-7pm



TO PARTICIPATE AS A DECORATED TRUNK PLEASE EMAIL
BBCA1896@GMAIL.COM

Historical Ghost Tour 4-5 PM AT MT REST CEMETERY
ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO BENEFIT IMAGINATION LIBRARY

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sept. 1st— Town Hall Closed—Labor Day

Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30th Farmers Market at Hickory Park

Sept. 4 th First day of classes for Byron-Bergen.

Sept. 6th Town Board 2026 Budget Workshop 9:00 am

Sept. 9 — Town Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Sept. 15th Food Link Presbyterian Church



October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Oct. 7th— Town Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Oct. 9th Genesee Co Fairgrounds Rabies Clinic 4 pm—6:30 pm

Oct. 13th—Town Hall Closed for Columbus Day

Oct. 18th—Trunk or Treat

Oct. 23 Food Link—Presbyterian Church



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Nov 2—change your clocks day light saving time ends.

Nov. 13th Food Link—Presbyterian Church

Nov. 18—Town Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Nov. 27 & 28—Town Hall Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday



