



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2023



Editor: Michele Smith

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

Much of the work of local government is mundane. Recently we have devoted a great deal of time to tasks that are not particularly newsworthy but are important to the functioning of the Bergen Town Government.

For example, we have been working with our insurance company and our IT service provider to increase our cyber security. That includes helping our employees learn best practices for using technology in the workplace. To that end the Town Board adopted a new password policy in May.

We are also undergoing a Federal Single Audit in conjunction with the WIBA water project. Not only are all aspects of the water project itself audited, but so are all other financial areas of Town Government in the fiscal year 2022 – court, highway, library, etc.

We continue to pursue improvements at Robbins Brook Park. We have engaged the MRB Group to prepare an application to New York State's Consolidated Fund Application and Environmental Protection Agency. The cost of the application writing is funded in large part by a \$5,000 grant from Genesee County. Our primary goal is the installation of a restroom at the front of the park now that public water is available. We would like to include a new recreational component of some type, but have not made a determination about what would be most financially feasible.

Happy Summer!
Ernie Haywood, Supervisor





New Property Owner?

Register for the School Tax Relief (STAR) Credit

Congratulations on your new home! If this will be your primary residence, take a few minutes to register for the STAR credit.

Eligible new homeowners will receive their STAR savings in the form of a check directly from New York State. But you **must register** with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR credit check.

You can register 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at

www.tax.ny.gov/star.

Property owners without access to a computer can register by phone at 518-457-2036 weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (You do not register with your local Assessor's Office).

Feedback on the STAR Registration application from our users:

'Straightforward and easy to use.'

'Very user friendly. Easy to go through step by step.'

'I expected this to be a long lengthy process... and it was not.'

Are you eligible for STAR?

If you own your home, it's your primary residence, and your income is \$500,000 or less, you're eligible for the Basic STAR credit.

In addition, if you're 65 or older with an income of \$93,200 or less, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit.

In the first year of your new home, you may receive the prior owner's STAR exemption. In future years, as long as you're eligible, we'll send you a STAR check. You don't need to register again.

Before you register, have this information available:

- names and social security numbers for all owners of the property and their spouses
- the name of the school district where your primary residence is located
- approximate date you purchased the property, and the name of the sellers
- the most recent school tax bill, if you received one
- address of any residential property owned in another state
- if the property is owned in trust, the legal name of the trust
- 2022 federal or state income tax returns for all owners (if you didn't file a 2022 income tax return, you'll be asked to provide financial information for all property owners)



Hunting Licenses will be going on sale August 1st, DMP's are on a lottery first come first serve basis as in the past \$10 for 2. Fishing Licenses now run a year from the date of purchase and are available for \$25 or \$5 if 70+.

Dog License News: I hate to "hound" you, but 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. If new to the area please transfer your dog with the Town of Bergen. If there is a problem getting an appointment for a rabies vaccination, etc., please call me 494-1121 x 21; if after hours leave a message on my voicemail anytime day or night.

ANTI-RABIES CLINICS: Dog, Cat and Ferret Vaccinations are free to Genesee County residents. A \$5.00 voluntary donation per dog, cat or ferret, is requested to offset expenses. Non-County residents must pay a mandatory \$5.00 fee for each dog, cat and ferret immunized. Each animal must be accompanied by someone who can control it.



August 10th – Genesee Fairgrounds 5031 E. Main St., Batavia 4:00 – 6:30 pm



Office Closing

Monday, June 19th – Juneteenth

Monday, July 3rd - Friday, July 7th - Independence Day Holiday

Monday, September 4th – Labor Day

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 5:00

Friday 8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00

Closed on Thursdays & Saturdays

From the Desk of County Legislator *Christian Wunker*

We have had a beautiful Spring and now Summer is upon us. Please remember to take advantage of our fantastic Parks and Ellicott Trail system in the County this Summer. We continue to maintain and invest in these resources and they continue to more utilized every year especially since the Pandemic. New to the Parks, a self-checkout kayak kiosk at Dewitt Park.



We continue to make nice progress on all the Counties major projects. The jail is coming together very nicely. All the cell pods are in place along with the support and administration part of the building. Most of work is now focused on the interior. The project continues to be on time with a scheduled completion of date of January of 2024. Despite a few change orders, the project remains well within our budget.

We are wrapping 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 have already secured millions through this avenue. 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.

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://geneseeeclipse.com/>. Also be sure to check out the AirShow our community will be hosting over Labor Day weekend. There will be world renown acts featured that weekend that will light up the evening sky. See www.wingsoverbatavia.com. As always, feel free to reach out anytime.

Library hours

Tuesday 10-1 and 2-7
Wednesday 10-1 and 2-7
Thursday 10-1 and 2-7
Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-1*

Closed: Saturday June 10th for Bergen Park Festival

Tuesday July 4th for Independence Day

***Closed Saturdays July - Labor Day.**



Open up new worlds- read new authors, try a new recipe book, or get lost in a movie! Check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org. There are databases, TumbleBook Library-e-books for Kids, NOVEL list-readers advisory, Libby/Overdrive –e-books, audio books & magazines and Hoopla for eBooks, audio books, video and music are available to you with a valid Library card! The Library has Wi-Fi available as well as three patron computers with printing, coping, and fax capabilities for a small fee.

Games! Games! Games! Puzzles too! The Library has many indoor and outdoor games available to check out with your library card! Yarkle/Yardzee- Jarts – Slammo- just to name a few. We also have Pickle Ball rackets to borrow! Check out the courts in Hickory Park!

For some indoor fun- we have Battleship, Sorry, Clue, Ticket to Ride, Guess Who—just to name a few available.

Library book sale will be at the Bergen Park Festival on June 10th. There are audio books, movies, children’s books and many bestselling authors. The Library will be closed on June 10th so stop by the tent at the Park Fest!

The Library will be hosting the March Time Marchers Marching Band at the Bergen Park Festival on June 10th in the parade at noon and right after the parade too with a field show not to be missed! This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant 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!



Is your child staying home alone while you are at work? The Library is offering a “Home Alone” safety workshop on June 13th from 6-8pm. This workshop will prepare your child for situations that can occur when they stay home alone. The cost is only \$20. Class size is limited so stop by soon to sign up no later than June 9th!

Cyanotype Photography workshop with Laura Jackett on June 17th at 11am. Come learn how to transform plain white paper into a rich blue photograph! No background in photography necessary to master this process. These blue prints are made with the help of the sun so bring your sunglasses. Makes a great Father’s Day Gift or just a special keepsake for yourself! Sign up by Tuesday, June 13th. All ages welcome! This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant 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!



The Library is looking for responsible kids age 11 years old and older to help volunteer during the summer reading program. Stop by and pick up an application now before the end of the school year! You can win prizes for volunteering and get a first look at all the new books and DVDs! Beat the heat in our air-conditioned Library and sign up with a friend to join the fun!



Summer is coming!! So is the summer reading program- "All Together Now!" Kick off Summer Reading June 22nd at 6pm with the Hill Brothers performance--A Rockin' Show to Celebrate Reading! Come enjoy this high energy, 40-minute show that uses irresistibly sing able songs, comedy & loads of audience participation to get kids really fired up to read! And sign up for this year's Summer Reading Program "All Together Now" at the same time!

This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant 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!



Why should you join the reading program? The summer reading is set up for children 3 years old and up to read and wins prizes! Having your child read throughout the summer will help keep up their reading skills for school in the fall. Reading to your preschool child will help them master the skills of language at an early age.

If you are not able to make the Kick-off event- stop in any time after June 22nd to sign up! Throughout the summer we will be having special Pete the Cate & Kindness Superhero story times, Nature Quest & Storybook Cooking science fun, According Book and Dandiyas crafts, Crunchy Sam's Reptile animal visits, Dare to Dream Storytelling, and much more! **For a complete schedule of events check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and friend us on Facebook or stop by to pick up a schedule. Lots of fun activities you won't want to miss!**

The Library has preschool story time at 10:30am starting Friday July 7th to August 11th. We will be exploring songs, crafts and more! Join the fun this summer with your young children! There's magic in every book!

A Babysitting workshop will be offered on Monday June 26th from 10-3. If you are interested, please call the Library to sign up by Friday June 23rd. Cost is \$25 and you must be at least 11 years old to be certified. Space is limited!

Concerts in the Park - Byron Community Park Thursdays at 7pm

July 13th - Glenn Colton's Family Fun Summer Concert --This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant 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!



July 20th - Batavia Swing Band - Sponsored by the Town of Byron

July 27th - Savage Cabbage-- This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant 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!



--Food and refreshments will be supplied by Byron's Fire Dept Ladies Auxiliary---

Come check out our newest books on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org to reserve your copy! We also have a great selection of adult and children's audio books that are great to listen to while you are driving to your vacation destination!

Stop in soon!

For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Happy Reading--

Nancy Bailey

The Byron-Bergen Public Library held a contest inviting people to tell What Their Favorite Thing About the Library Is. The McMillan Family of Justine, Elijah, Sam and Joshua and The Quirk Family of Audrey, Ximena and Fausto were co-winners. They praised the BBPL for its welcoming atmosphere, its coziness, and the wealth of activities available that are much more than just books. Each winning family was awarded a gift certificate to Ralph & Rosie's, donated by Ralph & Rosie's. Thank you to all who submitted their warm thoughts. Stay tuned for more thoughts will be shared in the coming months. Sally Capurso, Byron-Bergen Public Library Board of Trustees President

**FREE T-SHIRT
FIRST 50 CARS TO
REGISTER
(LIMIT 1 PER CAR)**



BERGEN PARK FESTIVAL CRUISE-IN

**Saturday JUNE 10th 2023
11:00- 3:00***

**Hickory Park
Route 19, Bergen, NY**

**Please enter from Lake Rd (RT 19)
next to Basketball Court**

**Please arrive prior
to 11 so we can have
everyone ready
promptly at 11**

****Cars must be out of the park
by 4 pm or stay for evening
entertainment and Fireworks***

For Information Contact:

Kim Donley 585-329-7848

Kimberliedonley@howardhanna.com

The 33RD
**BERGEN
PARK FESTIVAL**
@ HICKORY PARK

JUNE 10TH

Yoga in the Park 8am-9am

Car Show 11am-3pm

Parade at NOON

Magician 1:30pm

LIVE MUSIC

2:00 pm -4:30

Shane and Korrine Haymon

5:00-Fireworks

The Grove Street Band

Mobile Bars

Food Trucks

Dunk Tank

Bounce Houses

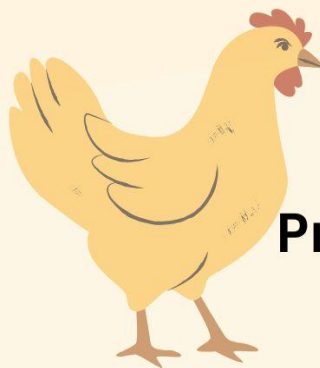
(\$10.00 All day Wristband)

Over 60 Craft Vendors

Petting Zoo

Pony Rides

Book Sale



Chicken BBQ

4:00-5:30

Presale Available

\$14

Fireworks

At Dusk

Sponsored and Presented by:



BBCA

WHERE BERGEN GROWS COMMUNITY



REPUBLICAN PRIMARY FOR BERGEN TOWN CLERK & HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT FOR JUNE 27, 2023

Polling Site: Bergen Town Hall poles will be open 6:00 am – 9:00 pm

Early Voting ARC Community Center 38 Woodrow Rd. Batavia:



Saturday, June 17th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday, June 18th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Monday, June 19th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, June 20th 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Wednesday, June 21st 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Thursday, June 22nd 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, June 23rd 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday, June 24th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday, June 25th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm



TOWN OF BERGEN
10 HUNTER STREET
BERGEN, NY 14416
bergenny.org