



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER



MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2024

Town News ... From the Desk of Town Supervisor *Ernest Haywood...*

The total Solar eclipse is just around the corner on Monday, April 8. Although the town itself is not hosting any activities, we encourage you to take advantage of this once in a lifetime event by visiting the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce website at GeneSeeTheEclipse.com. The Genesee County Park is offering a variety of activities that day. Traffic is expected to be heavy along Route 19 on April 8 so be sure to give yourself extra time if traveling.

We have submitted another grant application in pursuit of funding for restrooms at Robins Brook Park. The Town has set aside ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and our highway department is willing and able to help with the site work for the project if we can achieve a matching funding source.

Mengel, Metgar and Barr, CPAs completed the 2022 Federal Single Audit and presented it to the Town Board on February 13. The Federal Single Audit is a requirement whenever a municipality receives more than \$750,000 in federal funding in one year. Bergen WIBA1 water project received more than \$750,000 in both 2022 and 2023 so we will have to repeat the Federal Single Audit process for 2023. That work is just beginning now.

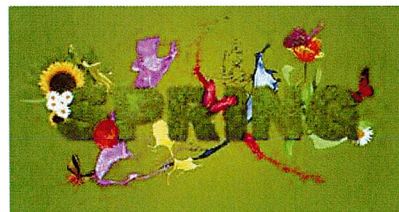
Additionally, the State Comptroller began an audit here in September 2023, as part of their periodic audits of all Towns and Village. Field work was completed on site in January. We have not yet received the Comptroller's audit report. When we do, it will be shared with the public.

We have been working on updating our cyber security policy. This is an important undertaking and one required by our insurance carrier.

Our new town clerk, town board members and I participated in training provided by the Association of Towns. It was very helpful training as the complexities of even small governments has grown.

Looking forward to spring,

Ernie Haywood, Supervisor



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It has been a relatively mild Winter and Spring will be upon us before we know it. The County continues to make great progress on many of our major projects. The Jail we are constructing is coming along nicely with substantial completion to be the end of March or early April. Inmates do not move until June as the transition team and staff works to prepare the facility and move in prior to the in-mates arrival. The project continues to be on time and despite a few typical change orders, the project remains well within our budget. To date this has been a very well run and successful construction project. The County has also decided to outfit the backup 911 center in the jail while the contractors were on site. This move saves about 20% of the cost of that project that we had planned to do in the next 12-18 months anyway as we decommission the old jail and backup 911 center.

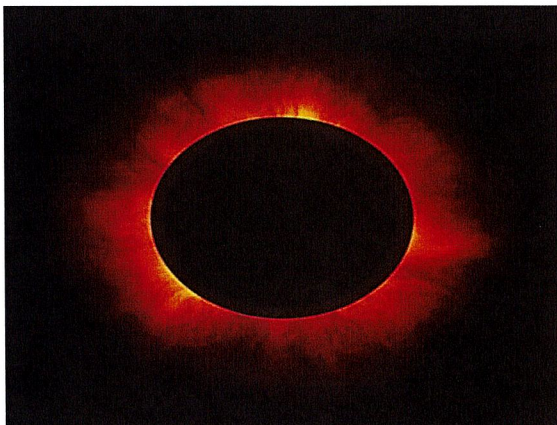
We are excited to announce that we have a signed contract with Spectrum to start construction this Summer on all the remaining address points of unserved customers across the County. As far as we know, we are the only County in New York State that we will be able to make the claim that we will be able to give every address point in the County an opportunity to connect to broadband.

We are looking to wrap up phase 2 of the water infrastructure project this Fall 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 of our water project. Our Chair recently met with officials in Washington DC attempting to secure significant funding from the Army Corp that is earmarked for our water project. This will be game changing funding towards our \$150 million project to secure the County with water needs for today and the future.

We have a contract with Mercy Flight to support their ambulance service throughout the County. EMS service is under incredible pressure throughout Up State 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 so they can continue full coverage for critical services. We also continue to look at our fire services and opportunities to promote and help volunteer services including possible property tax exemptions.

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://geneseeclipse.com/>. As always, feel free to reach out anytime.

Christian Yunker



From the Desk of the Town Highway Superintendent *Joel Pocock...*

Hello Neighbors,

My first couple of months as your Highway Superintendent have been pretty quiet for winter weather.

I have been busy planning for the upcoming Spring season. First on the list is brush pickup, this will tentatively start May 6th and we will make one round through the town, we will post full details on the town web site and Facebook page. If any changes arise, we will post them as well.

I have also been busy planning our road work for this up coming summer season more details will follow when scheduling is a little more set, we will make every effort to let people know of closures and delays on our web site and Facebook.

Please don't hesitate to call me at 494-1121 ext. 300 if I may be of service. Highway dept. hours are 7:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday thru Friday. However, you may leave a message 24 hours a day and I will return your call as soon as possible. I closing myself and crew hope you have a wonderful Spring and Summer.

Joel Pocock

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

It has been a very busy start to the year at the town clerk's office! Tax collecting season is almost behind me and I must say it has been so nice to see new and familiar faces. The last day to pay your Town & County taxes at the office is March 31, it is a Sunday but we do have a drop box out front for your convenience.

We have a new phone system in place at the Town Hall; Town Supervisor – Ernie Haywood - ext. 122

Town Clerk – Teresa Robinson - ext. 120

Highway Superintendent – Joel Pocock – ext. 300

Assessor – Rhonda Saulsbury – ext. 100

Please dial 585 494-1121 for the full list of extensions.

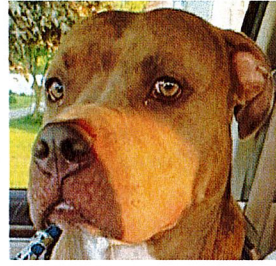
Joel and I have signed up the Town of Bergen for United Way Day of Caring: Thursday, May 23, 2024. The Day of Caring is volunteers in the Community coming together to work on different projects. In the past, volunteers have placed mulch, weeded and planted flowers at the Byron-Bergen Library and Town Hall. If you would like to volunteer, the link is below <https://unitedwayrocflx.org/our-work/resources-for-nonprofits/day-of-caring/>. As the date gets closer, look for more information on our website and Facebook page. You can always call the office at 494-1121 ext. 120.

Attention Hunters: The DEC is going to be replacing the special stock synthetic paper hunting tags this year with plain paper tags. The change will take effect beginning August 1, 2024. I will keep you updated on the changes.

Genesee County rabies immunization clinics located at the Genesee County Fairgrounds (5056 East Main St., Batavia) are as follows:

Thursday, May 16, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 8, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, August 10, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Please be sure to license your dogs and provide up to date rabies information.

Happy Spring!

Teresa Robinson



Did you know?

- The Library is Bigger than it Looks-The Byron-Bergen's interlibrary loan service gives you access to collections at other libraries! Being part of the Nioga Library system gives you opportunities to interloan books from Niagara, Orleans, and Genesee County Libraries. Just check out our online catalog with your valid Library card-- Unlock millions of books, audio books, music CD's, and DVD's available to you! Can't wait for delivery to the Library? Take your card to other libraries in the system and check it out yourself!
- The Library has several free options for online and downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, music and movies you can read on your computer, smart phone, dedicated eBook reader, or tablet. Just go to the Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org website and click on Libby and Hoopla to find out more!



- The Library is more than just books – there are movies and music, programs for all ages, book sales, and much more. Check us out at www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

We have New York tax forms available here! You also can go to the website at www.nystax.gov and go to forms to print from home. If you need Federal tax forms, they are available at www.irs.gov

Library has Pre-K/Toddler story time for children at 10:30am on Fridays until March 22nd for the winter session and will begin the spring session on April 12th. We enjoy a different themed story each week with a related craft! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library.

Book discussion group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month. March 14th at 3pm we are reading Winter Guest by Pam Jenoff. Our April Book club will meet at 6:30pm reading the book Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller. Come join the discussion and meet new people! We enjoy lively conversation about the book and refreshments too! Call or stop by the Library to reserve your copy of our current book.

Drop in for a St. Patrick's Day take and make craft the week of March 12th. Don't forget to wear something green.

Chair Yoga will be on Tuesday, March 12th and Tuesday, March 26th at 3pm -- Come join the fun and get fit with Colleen Clark—a certified yoga instructor! Make sure to wear comfortable clothes, and bring a water bottle! Sign-up of is appreciated.

Fun with Friends – Intuitive Painting--Wednesday, March 13th at 6pm -- This is an adult program where you'll have the opportunity to get creative, and maybe a little messy, as you paint! Bring a friend with you and/or you're sure to make a new one here! Sign up is necessary by March 6th--call us at 585-494-1120! Space is limited so sign-up ASAP!! 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!

goArt!

NYS FREE Tax Assistance – Tuesday, March 26th with time slots available from 10am to 6pm! We are so pleased to be partnering with volunteers from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance to offer FREE tax help and e-filing. Please call us at 585-494-1120 to register for an appointment.

Spring Break Happenings!! April 2nd – April 6th

Bunny Fun Story time -- Tuesday April 2nd at 3:00pm – Come listen to Brook read a book or two, share how she takes care of her bunny, get to meet her bunny, and then make your own stuffed bunny to take home with you! 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! Sign up by calling us at 585-494-1120 by March 30th—space is limited.

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Mobile Planetarium—Our Moon Earth's Closest Neighbor – Wednesday April 3rd at 3pm --The Library will be hosting this Planetarium experience at the Sage Pavilion (62 S. Lake Ave, Bergen) and is open to all ages! Learn all about the Moon! Why does it phase? What lights it up? How large is it and what would happen if the Moon didn't exist? Real photos are used to show basic lunar features such as craters, mountain chains, valleys, plus much more! We will also be talking about the Eclipse and handing out glasses. Please call us at 585-494-1120 to sign up by March 29th to come—space is limited!

REPCO WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS – Thursday April 4th at 6pm –Join us as Crystal teaches us all about different reptiles and their habits! This fun educational encounter is fun for the whole family. No Registration necessary.

Join the Library and the Bergen Historical Society on April 6th as we meet at 7pm. A short meeting will be before the presentation. More information to follow. Refreshments to follow. No registration necessary.

National Library week is April 8th – 13th -- Stop in and take out 3 or more books and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate!

Save the date of **April 17th** for our annual pre-school concert! Join our smaller patrons at the Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church at **9:30am** for music and fun with Meredith as Mamma Goose on the Loose. Children will be swept into an imaginary

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“storybook world” with songs, dancing and play! No Registration required! Just come join the fun! 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!

Fun with Friends – Tree of Life Bracelets – Thursday, April 18th at 6pm -- We are hosting Chris Ariyaratnam at the Library for a special Fun with Friends event!! This is an adult program where you’ll have the opportunity to get creative and make a bracelet to keep or for a present! Bring a friend with you and/or you’re sure to make a new one here! Sign up is necessary by April 12th—call us at 585-494-1120! Space is limited so sign-up ASAP!! 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!

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Join the Library and the Bergen Historical Society meeting and presentation on May 2nd at 7pm--all are welcome! More information to follow.

Library book sale will be at the Bergen Park Festival on June 8th. There are audio books, movies, children’s books and many bestselling authors. The Library will be closed on June 8th so stop by the tent at the Park Fest!

The Library has Spectrum/Time Warner Internet service available. The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost. Interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system at our catalog www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org. If you can’t find it, please ask! Stop in soon! For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Happy Reading!

Nancy Bailey -- Library Manager

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

I think my feeling is shared by many when I say we seemed to have dodged a harsh winter. Old Punxutawney Phil predicted an early spring, and we are finding this out to be true. The bad side to this is the mild early spring temperatures are making it difficult for collecting sap to make maple syrup. We need freezing night time temperatures and mild daytime temperatures for the sap to flow. Genealogist, Jodi Fisher and myself are patiently waiting for this to happen so we can embark on the third season of our North Bergen Maple Syrup History Project where we have re-created the life and times of Calvin Dean, maple syrup producer in 1915 North Bergen.

As 2024 starts underway, I am looking forward to what will hope to be another prosperous year for the Harford Museum. I am excited to say, I can hardly wait to break the museum out of mothballs, clear the cobwebs, and bust open the doors for the 2024 season. This year, we will be participating in the spectacular event of the solar eclipse on April 8th! The museum will be open throughout the day and visitors can get a sneak peek at some new featured artifacts on display ahead of our regular season. Also, keep your eyes out for our selfie photo boards and backdrops that change with the seasons/events! This is located at the front entrance of the museum complex.

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 and I will be happy to assist you.



Tom Tiefel

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 23
easter lunch & hunt

11:30- MEET & GREET WITH BUNNY
12:45 LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
AT SAGE PAVILION
62 SOUTH LAKE AVENUE
(ACROSS FROM HICKORY PARK)

1:00 EASTER EGG HUNT
AT HICKORY PARK



**BERGEN
ECLIPSE
DISC GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

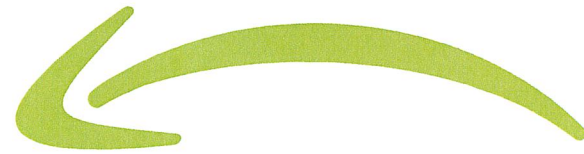
Sign up & get a
custom stamped
disc!

Come join us
SUNDAY, APRIL 7th
Bergen Disc Golf Course

1 round of 18 holes. You
choose to register for the
AM or PM round.

Lunch will be provided!

Scan
here to
register!



June 8th

More Details to follow

Foodlink Distribution

4pm @Bergen Evangelical
Presbyterian Church
every 3rd Thursday

Tri-County Rural Outreach Food Panty

@ Bergen United Methodist Church
Last Sat of Month 9am-12pm
2nd Thursday of Month 5pm-8pm
