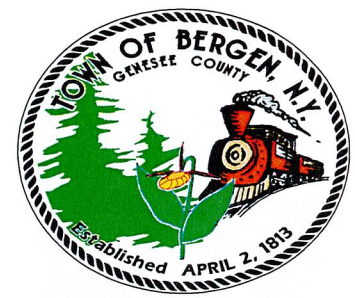


TOWN OF BERGEN

September, October,
November 2024



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

The Town of Bergen has received NYSERDA’s Clean Energy Communities Designation which makes the Town eligible for energy grants. The Town received the designation for earning enough points in four categories: benchmarking, community engagement and training, LED streetlights, and transportation and landscaping. Bergen is one of only 46 communities in the region that have achieved Advanced Status.

We have been awarded a grant to conduct energy audits on the Town’s buildings to determine ways to save on our energy costs. In addition, we are exploring opportunities to install electric charging stations at Robins Brook Park.

Thank you to our Highway Superintendent and his crew for continued improvements at Robins Brook Park. They have recently installed a fence and we are working on plans to

provide electricity to the Pavilion.

We have just completed our second Federal Single Audit in relation to the WIBA1 water project. These audits are mandatory for expenditures of more than \$750,000 in federal funds in any given year. The water project was audited twice for years 2022 and 2023 and all water project expenditures were found to be in good order. That now officially closes the project!

We have been working on the 2025 Bergen Town Budget. Some of the challenges we are facing include a more than 20% increase in health insurance, rising retirement system contributions, a 12% increase in salt prices and falling interest rates. It is likely that we will be holding our budget public hearing for the proposed 2025 year on Tuesday, November 12.

Continued...

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

Inside this issue

Genesee County Legislator.....	2
Town Highway.....	3
Planning Board & Bergen Fire.....	4
Town Clerk.....	5
BBCA.....	6 & 7
Byron-Bergen Public Library.....	8 & 9
Town Historian.....	10

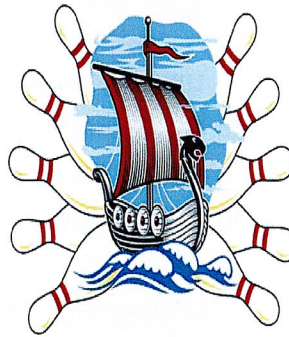
Congratulations to two local businesses for their many years of service to the Bergen Community. Harris Wilcox has been a family-owned business here for 81 years – that is remarkable! The Viking Valhalla and Rose Garden is celebrating 70 years in business – another remarkable feat! Both businesses have provided employment for many local residents and have generously supported the community in a variety of ways. We are fortunate to have them here and wish them many more years of continued success!

Ernie Haywood, Supervisor



Harris Wilcox, Inc.

Auctioneers, Realtors & Appraisers



*Viking Valhalla Restaurant
at the
Rose Garden Bowl &
Volleyball Center*



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

Another Summer flies by and before we know it the trees will be changing color. This time of year is where the County has been working hard on its 2025 Budget process. The County has over 30 departments and delivers services to its residents with \$160,000,000+ of tax dollars and other revenue sources. This is a long process and every dollar is carefully considered. It is worth noting that over 75% of those dollars the County spends is from services that are mandated by New York State that we have very little control over.

The Jail project has been completed and resulted in a state of the art facility that ended up under budget. This was a very successful construction project.

By the time you read this article, the inmates will be in the new facility. This facility will be much safer and more efficient for our staff to do their job and it allows all our inmates male and female to be in a nicer facility and closer to their family. The back-up 911 center that will be housed in the new jail is still under construction.

Spectrum construction progress on all the remaining address points of unserved customers across the County is well under way. We look forward to giving every address point in the County an opportunity to connect to broadband. We are waiting to hear if we are awarded a \$4 million

federal grant to cover a significant portion of this cost. Our fingers are crossed for the good news.

The first year supporting Mercy Flight and LeRoy ambulance has been successful with both organizations meeting all their ambulance and life support metrics to cover the County. The organizations have appreciated the support as morale is up for both their employee bases.

There is always ongoing work on our largest County endeavor which is supplying adequate water to our residents and businesses over the next 50-100 years. This \$150 million project continues to move forward with several big wins for grant funding to support the project. This is a long and arduous process but we continue to make very positive progress from a funding and construction standpoint in 2024.

Will continue to keep you updated on this front. As always feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

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

As summer comes to an end, the Highway dept. is wrapping up our road projects for this year. I would like to thank everyone for their patience as we were completing these projects! As fall approaches, we will be mowing back the roads sides and preparing for the upcoming winter, road striping will be completed in the near future.



The town of Bergen had a great opportunity to participate in the Cornell Local Road Program, Jake Vazquez from RITs Civil Engineering Program was here all summer long, the intern was tasked with inventorying the roads taking notes of their importance and traffic volumes, the student spent his time surveying the condition of each town road and entering condition surveys into the data software provided by the local roads program, the program took all inputted survey conditions and ran a report of recommended repair options and importance. The information Jake gathered will be very valuable to the tax payers of Bergen. The core principle of the program is to keep good roads good! With this information it will help create budgets to most effectively maintain roads.

He also completed a GSI mapped sign inventory and condition survey of each sign in the town, Jake took pictures of each sign and entered into the data software, this information will help the town inventory and record all of the sign conditions and ran a report of recommended repairs and replacements as needed.

Continued.....

The town completes these surveys twice a year for liability purposes, the digital program will help us keep a better inventory and keep the residents and those who pass through our town safer.

In closing, a big thank you to my crew for all of the work they put into keeping Bergen running!

Sincerely,

Joel Pocock

Highway Superintendent

**From the Desk of the Planning Board
Chairperson, Gary Fink....**

Exciting developments are happening at our interchange. OXBO should be ready to break ground for a state of the art 200,000 square foot equipment manufacturing facility across from Kaiser-Wilcox on Rt 19 south of Rt 33. OXBO purchased the last 47 acres in the industrial park for the facility and a test track.

DMT Freight is scheduled to build a little farther south on Rt 19 and on the west side of the road. The building will serve as maintenance for the business, which is primarily a transfer station.

Finally, we recently approved the Dollar General project after they met the architectural requirements of the Planning Board Architectural Committee. The store will be located at the east corner of Appletree and Rt 33. As part of the agreed upon operation of the store, no merchandise may be displayed outside the store.

From the Bergen Fire Dept.



**Fire Prevention Week—
October 6-12**

**“Smoke Alarms Make them
Work for you!”**

INSTALL

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.

TEST

Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

REPLACE

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or stop responding when tested.

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



It has been very busy at the Town Clerk's Office! We are currently working on a new website for the Town with printable forms.

I'm happy to say the DEC computer system is up and running to sell hunting and fishing licenses for the 2024 season. A lot of changes have taken place with the DEC, Please stop in and pick up the new hunting and fishing books at the office.

DOG LICENSE RENEWALS

Don't forget about me, please make sure I'm Licensed with the Town Clerk!

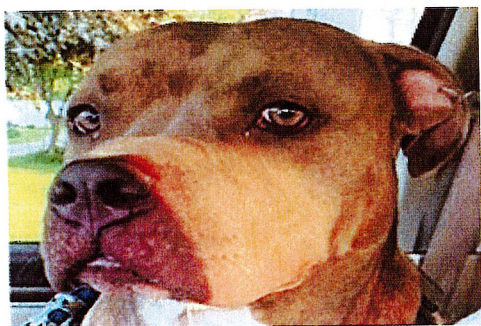
GENESEEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2024 Rabies Immunization Clinic

Genesee County Fairgrounds, 5056
East Main St., Batavia

October 10, 2024; 4:00 pm to 7:00
pm

For more information call 585 344-
2580 ext. 5555



THE TOWN OF BERGEN HAS A NEW POLLING LOCATION: GILLAM GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER; 6966 West Bergen Road, Bergen

General Election
November 5, 2024

Genesee ARC Community Center,
38 Woodrow Rd., Batavia, NY
14020

Early Voting

Saturday, October 26th – 9am-5pm

Sunday, October 27th – 9am-5pm

Monday, October 28th – 9am-5pm

Tuesday, October 29th – 12pm-
8pm

Wednesday, October 30th – 12pm-
8pm

Thursday, October 31st – 9am-5pm

Friday, November 1st – 9am-5pm

Saturday, November 2nd – 9am-
5pm

Sunday, November 3rd – 9am-5pm

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:

September 2
Labor Day

October 14
Columbus Day

November 11
Veterans Day

November 28
& 29 for
Thanksgiving

From the Bergen Business & Civic Association....



HALLOW'S EVE FESTIVAL

OCT 26TH

@HICKORY PARK



COSTUME PARADE @ 4:30



FOOD TRUCKS, DJ, GAMES,

SCAVANGER HUNT AND

TRUNK OR TREAT 5-8PM



HISTORICAL GHOST TOURS

5-7 PM



PRESENTED BY



BBCA
WHERE BERGEN GROWS COMMUNITY

With cooperation and support from





BBCA

WHERE BERGEN GROWS COMMUNITY



BBCA Recognition Awards Banquet

February 22, 2025

We're seeking your assistance!

Do you know someone in Bergen whose time, effort, actions, and talents have significantly contributed to the betterment of the community? These individuals should be acknowledged for their dedication and work. We aim to show them our appreciation and recognition. Please take a moment to nominate these deserving individuals.

How to Nominate someone-

You can find Nomination forms at the Town and Village offices
Online at <https://www.bergenbca.com>
or by emailing Anna Marie Barclay at amb0330@rochester.rr.com



Library hours

Sunday and
Monday –
Closed

Tuesday -
10-1 and 2-7

Wednesday -
10-1 and 2-7

Thursday-
10-1 and 2-7

Friday - 10-6

Saturday -
10-1



The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost, Computers with Internet and printing, Wi-Fi, and interlibrary loans from any library in the NIOGA Library system. If you can't find it at our Library, please ask or check us out on the web at www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org! Stop in soon! For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120

This year's summer reading program "Adventure Begins @ your Library" was a success!!!

Over 181 children participated and read over 9,050 minutes! This year we had a Teen/Adult reading program too! Over 99 people participated and read over 297 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 tickets from Seabreeze Amusement Park too. We couldn't have done it without 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, and Rose Garden Bowling. Without the generous donations of these merchants, our summer reading program wouldn't be possible.

Discover us on the web at

www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.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 12th to discuss the book Making of another Motion Picture Masterpiece by Tom Hanks. This group meets the 2nd Thursday each month: October 10th, November 14th, and December 12th. Come join the fun!

Pre-school/Toddler story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 13th. 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 10th! 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 1st Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to the public.

Bergen Historical Meeting with Ethan Fogg is on September 5th at 7pm. Join them at the Library for a special guest speaker, Ethan Fogg, an avid key and lock collector. We encourage you to bring your lock and key to hear about their history, Spontaneous Painting—Unleash Your Inner Artist with David Burke at 10:30am

Join David at the Library for this month's "Fun with Friends" program—get messy with paint, no artistic experience needed! Teen and adults welcome. Sign-up by Sept 12th to reserve your spot! 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!

Fun with Friends -Teen/Adults- Fall Décor Workshop with Leslie Hill on Tuesday October 8th at 6pm or Saturday October 12th at 10:30am. Come make an autumn theme decoration with to dry flowers. Sign up by October 10th. – 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!

Come visit the Library Trunk during the community Trunk or Treat October 26th at 4pm at Hickory Park, Village of Bergen. More information coming soon!

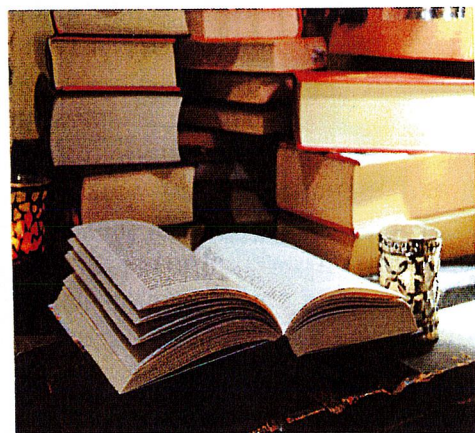
Stop by the Library on Halloween to get a treat! Costumes welcome! We are open from 10-1 & 2-7. Happy Halloween!

Join us on Wednesday November 26th from 5 pm to 7 pm for a Holiday Craft night. All ages welcome to come make a fun craft or two to help decorate for the coming holiday.

Christmas Bingo! Thursday December 5th at 6:30pm! Fun for the whole family. Registration is recommended.

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

Happy Reading-
Nancy Bailey
Library Manager



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

The Time That Dr. Morris Townsend Saved A Hero Of The Civil War.

In this newsletter edition, we take a look at Bergen physician, Dr. Morris Townsend and his "very personal" encounter with the Civil War hero of Gettysburg, Col. Joshua Chamberlain. Dr. Townsend answered the call to serve as a surgeon when the Civil War began in 1861. He was quickly assigned to the 44th NY Regiment as their primary surgeon. It was once reported that the Bergen Physician performed countless surgeries and amputations for 36 consecutive hours after a battle, only to fall ill himself from exhaustion.

On July 4th 1863, the battle of Gettysburg was in its final day. Confederate forces had the upper hand and Union lines were starting to collapse. Defending the Little Round Top, Col. Joshua Chamberlain recognized the dire circumstances and ordered his left wing to respond to the rebels by charging downhill with fixed bayonets thus helping end the Confederate attack. The 20th Maine and the 83rd Pennsylvania together captured over 400 soldiers from the attacking Confederate forces. As a result of their valiant defense, Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine gained a great reputation and they were the subject of many publications and stories.

At the Siege of Petersburg (Battle Of The Crater) the following year, the 20th Maine was in reserve, while Joshua (against his better judgment) led his Pennsylvania Bucktail brigade in a charge on a section of the Confederate defenses known as Rives's Salient. Turning to direct his troops, Joshua was struck by a bullet which entered just below his right hip. Such a devastating wound should have been fatal, and when he arrived at the field hospital, his life was feared over. Joshua's brother, Thomas Chamberlain was back with his regiment, eventually heard the news. He summoned the first available nearby surgeons, Dr. Shaw and Dr. Townsend and went to the hospital where Joshua was dying. The 2 gifted surgeons worked all night to save Joshua Chamberlain's life. Thirty-five years later,

Joshua Chamberlain wrote that, after the surgeons had finished: "Tom stood over me like a brother, and such a one as he was". Years later, A number of biographers of Joshua Chamberlain say that his life was saved through the actions of his brother, Thomas. A claim that Dr. Townsend angrily debated having said, " if I had known I was amongst such a great savior of life as Thomas Chamberlain, I would have handed the young lad my bag and let him get on with it!" Tension and dislike grew between the Doctor and the wounded Colonel over this debate in the years that followed.

After the war, Dr. Townsend returned to his general practice in Bergen where he served our local residents, and lived out the rest of his life until his death in 1903.

As a reminder, This October 31st, we will be participating in the village's traditional Trick or Treating Halloween event! "Halloween Night At The Museum" will be open from 6-9pm. Bring your Trick or Treaters by for candy treats, warm cider, (hot coffee for parents) and a chance to win prizes! While you're visiting, you can tour the museum and take in some amazing local history. Also, keep your eyes out for our selfie photo boards and backdrops that can make your family extra spooky!


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.



September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4 Town Court 5pm	5	6	7
8	9	10 Town Board Meeting 7pm	11 Town Court 5pm	12	13	14 Budget Workshop 9 am
15	16	17	18 Town	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Town Court 5pm	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Town Court 5pm	3	4	5
6 Fire Preven- tion week	7	8 Town Board Meeting 7pm	9 Town Court 5pm	10 Rabies Clinic	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day—Closed	15	16 Town Court 5pm	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Town Court 5pm	24	25	26 Hallow Eve's 4:30
27	28	29	30	31 		

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Election Day	6 Town Court 5pm	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day—Closed	12 Town Board 7pm	13 Town Court 5pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Town Court 5pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanks giving Holiday	29 Town Offices Closed	30