



# TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

## September, October, November 2022



Editor: Michele Smith

### NEWS FROM THE DESK OF TOWN SUPERVISOR *Ernie Haywood*

While it will be a few months before our water line installation is complete, several areas have been put into service – parts of Sackett, Warboys, West Sweden, Sautell, North Bergen, Cook, Reed and others. It is crucial to contact the Monroe County Water Authority immediately if you have not signed up for water service and would like to. Contact information is Virginia Smith at 442-2001 x 229 or Mary Johns at 442-2001 x 407. Our engineers and contractors believe that all lines will be completely installed by late fall.

Once water is in service on your road, you should contact your homeowner's insurance carrier to see if you qualify for discount now that fire hydrants are installed. An insurance discount is one of the many benefits of this public water expansion project.

We have several maintenance projects underway. We plan on painting the historian office and we have hired a contractor to repair and stabilize dangerous stones at the East Bergen Cemetery.

We would like to give a special thank you to the Welding Class at Genesee Valley BOCES and instructor, Andrew Geyer. The class did an awesome job repairing and refabricating our cemetery signs that had originally been made by local blacksmith. Thank you, Andrew and students!

We are heading into budget season and along with the usual challenges, we know that inflation will impact our budget as will the county's reduction in sales tax revenue sharing.

Enjoy the last days of summer!

Ernie Haywood, Supervisor





The County has remained busy with several key projects. We are excited to be awarding the broadband project to fill all the remaining gaps for high-speed internet. Our goal is to provide the opportunity for every residence and business to have access to high-speed internet in Genesee County. Spending over \$7,000,000 to this important initiative. Construction should start as soon as this Fall and we expect a full buildout within 2 years.

The County Jail that we are required to build is well underway. It has been a busy Summer on the W. Main Street site (next to County Building #2) with site work and building foundation construction through the Summer. This Fall into Winter the 184 bed building will start to be erected. This is the largest construction project the County have ever undertaken.

Water infrastructure continues to be a major focus of the County as well. This Summer during the drought our water supply was pushed to the limit. One hot weekend, all our supply tanks were down to under 10% combined with a heavy rain in Attica that led to too much turbidity in the Tonawanda led to the perfect storm of our supply being very close to running out. Quick communication by all those involved we were able to pull extra capacity from Monroe and Erie County supplies. We continue to look for every grant opportunity possible for this. We have been awarded several grants to date, so our efforts have been paying off. Phase 3 of our water project will cost over \$150 million, so you will continue to be hearing about these efforts for the next several years as we move to eventually close the City of Batavia water plant and have adequate water supplies for the next 40 years.

Now that it is Fall, our County budget work has been well underway. We have been closely monitoring sales tax revenue as this has leveled off and started to trend downwards from the highs we had in 2021. We recently had a large County employee recognition event as we were able to recognize 207 different employees for longevity milestones. We have not done a week-long event like this in the past 10 years because of budget constraints. As we have seen in the private sector, labor has become hard to retain and recruit in this environment. We are very grateful for all the work and professionalism that all public sector employees provide, especially in Bergen and Genesee County. As always, feel free to reach out with questions or concerns anytime.



This year's summer reading program "Oceans of Possibilities!" was a success!!! Over 190 children participated! Thank you to all our junior volunteers!! 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., Seabreeze Amusement Park, Wal-Mart of Brockport, Target -Batavia, Tops Friendly Market - LeRoy, Dollar General -Churchville, Rochester Museum and Science Center and Wal-Mart -Batavia. Without the generous donations of these merchants, our summer reading program wouldn't be possible.

Congratulations to Michael Rogoyski on winning the Friends of the Library Christopher and Victoria Claus Memorial Award. He won the \$50 award for writing a book review on a book he enjoyed reading this summer. Michael will also get his name put on a plaque in the Library.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month!!! Stop by the Library and get ready to explore!!! All you need is a driver's license to sign up. If you are 18 and younger, we need your parents/guardian to come in and sign you up.

Discover us on the web at [www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org](http://www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org) and on Facebook and Twitter too! We have Libby/Overdrive digital audio, digital magazines, & e-books, and Hoopla - digital music-audio/e-book and movies. All this is FREE with your valid Library card.

## Library hours are:

Tuesday 10-1 & 2-7

Wednesday 10-1 & 2-7

Thursday 10-1 & 2-7

Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-1



Our Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on September 15th to discuss the book Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner. This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month: October 13<sup>th</sup>, November 10<sup>th</sup>, and December 8<sup>th</sup>. Come join the fun!

Toddler/Pre-school story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 16<sup>th</sup> for our new session. Join us for a story, craft and a snack! This is recommended for ages 2-5 but younger children are welcome with their parents/guardian. Registration is appreciated.

Tech time at the Library! Call to set up an appointment for Wednesday during regular Library hours. Our staff can help you set up the many different Library related apps and answer basic questions on your devices and e-readers. Call today for an appointment!

Calling all Homeschoolers- Book as a Work of Art workshop on Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Did you know a book can be a work of art? Students in this program will explore the possibilities of using handmade books to express their ideas. We will learn a brief history of the book, the terms, and tools used to make them, and will create 2-3 sample books. Recommended for grades 3 and up. Made possible through Carman Grant and Erie Canal Programs with Western NY Young Audiences.

Join us and the Bergen Historical Society for “Objects from History” with Genesee Country Moveable Museum on Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. No registration needed. 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 *goArt!*

Learn to sew -special fun day – Monday October 10<sup>th</sup> from 10-2pm - Make a Trick or Treat bag with Mrs. Redinger and Mrs. Flood! This free program is recommended for ages 7 and up. Register by Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.

Another Homeschool opportunity- Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am- ‘You’re So Dramatic” Theatre. An introductory level improvisation class for young people! Where you learn how to play pretend with guidelines and build on the creative elements of improvisation. Made possible through Carman Grant and Erie Canal Programs with Western NY Young Audiences.

Join us for a fun class and make a Holiday woodcraft with Kim on Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Cost for this workshop is \$10/person. More information to come with picture of craft too- on email and Facebook. Register by October 20<sup>th</sup>. All ages welcome!

Halloween Scavenger Hunt- Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-7pm. Come search for spooky things in the Library and win a prize! All ages welcome!

Bergen Historical Society and the Library team up to bring you Victorian Yuletide with the Genesee Country Moveable Museum on Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. Find out the how and why we have certain Victorian holiday traditions and decorations. No registration is needed. 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 *goArt!*

Thanksgiving make and take craft time! Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. Stop in and create your own fun Thanksgiving craft to help decorate your home! No Registration required.

Handmade Holiday Gift with Chris from Ari’s Original’s on Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm Cost \$10/person. Make a Bracelet or Bookmark to give to your favorite person! All ages welcome! Please Register by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Ready – Nancy Bailey, Library Manager



## When the red lights don't come...



It's easily taken for granted that when a 911 call goes in, a prompt response is made, and the red lights show up. Unlike the suggestion of the article title, the red lights **will show up**, but with diminishing members of your fire department, it becomes a question of when. Emergency response is one of the most vital services to a community, and when a family member has chest pain, a motorist is trapped in a vehicle, or a kitchen grease fire gets out of control; minutes seem like hours. They tick by as the fire hall awaits a crew. More tick by if the call gets passed to a neighboring department when a crew can't respond, and desperation mounts waiting for those red lights.

It's well known that volunteer organizations struggle with membership & retention of members. Often tasks, projects, and participation is shouldered by a few of the most dedicated. This isn't any different for our local fire department. As members hang up their fire gear to enjoy retirement it becomes a greater burden on a smaller group. In the case of the Bergen Fire Department, the responding group is shrinking considerably with the age of many escalating closer to the point of inactive status. Though the mission of every department is to respond to a call for help, in this case, we're making the call. We need the men and ladies of our community to jump in for one another.

Interests in community service organizations is much different today than it was for generations past and the volunteer agencies have suffered as a result. There's so many more events, activities, and things to do, with technology that guides everyone's interests. Yet none are as essential, and few as rewarding, as a commitment to emergency service. It obviously isn't for everyone, and we don't need everyone, but we need some. Men and Ladies to drive the trucks, throw on the gear, provide medical care or direct traffic. Think you can't? Think again! We'll give you training and there's really something for anyone willing to respond.

In 2015, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) conducted research into volunteer recruitment and retention, seeking to better understand key attitudes and motivators of volunteers. Included in their survey was the question, "*Is your local fire department seeking volunteers?*", a whopping 80% of respondents didn't know. **Now you know.** If you've ever had an inkling of interest in serving your community, consider this plea and apply for membership to the Bergen Fire Department today to help the red lights show up. Simply email [recruit@bergenfd.org](mailto:recruit@bergenfd.org) for further information.



**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 2022-2023 hunting license. **Extra DMP’s will be available starting Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** 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:

**September 15<sup>th</sup> – Genesee County Fairgrounds 5031 E. Main St. Batavia 4:00 – 7:00 PM**

**October 13<sup>th</sup> – Genesee County Fairgrounds 5031 E. Main St. Batavia 4:00 – 7:00 PM**



**Town Clerk Office Closings:**

- September 5<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day
- October 10<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day
- November 25<sup>th</sup> – 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

**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 31<sup>st</sup> and are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> without penalty.

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





## **Election Day Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**(District 1 & 2 at the 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 29<sup>th</sup> – 9am-5pm

Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – 9am-5pm

Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – 9am-5pm

Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – 12pm-8pm

Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12pm-8pm

Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9am-5pm

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – 9am-5pm

Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – 9am-5pm

Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – 9am-5pm

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**10 HUNTER STREET**

**BERGEN, NY 14416**

**bergenny.org**