



TOWN OF BERGEN NEWSLETTER

September, October, November 2020



Editor: Michele Smith

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF TOWN SUPERVISOR *Ernie Haywood*

I can't believe how fast the summer has flown by and I hope that you had the opportunity to enjoy it. We have been very busy at the town as we continue to serve you.

CENSUS

I hope by now you have all had the opportunity to fill out the 2020 census. It is very important to our community that every resident be counted. The census affects federal and state aid that we receive; it also affects our congressional and state representation. The census deadline was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have not responded, please visit 2020census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020 as soon as possible.

LIBRARY RENOVATIONS COMPLETED AND FUNDS SECURED

The renovations to the library were completed earlier this year and now that the library is open, I encourage you to stop by and see the renovations. The town received funding for the portion of the renovations they paid for through a grant secured by Senator Mike Ranzenhofer.

COVID-19

In July the town lifted the COVID-19 state of emergency that had been in place since March. As Supervisor I participate in a weekly call with other elected officials throughout Genesee County to discuss the issues facing us as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, our infection rates remain low and people are complying with wearing masks and social distancing. For the health of all I ask that you continue to do so. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the county has not received as much sales tax revenue and subsequently they have reduced substantially what revenue they provide the town. Subsequently we have taken measure to hold our cost to spend within our revenue.

NEW WATER DISTRICT

We continue to move forward with activities associated with the new water district. The plans are being finalized and we are working with various state and federal agencies to obtain approvals. At this point we anticipate going out to bid in December and having the work start in early 2021. Completion of the water lines and complete restoration of the properties are planned to be completed by mid-2022.

On August 19, the Town closed on a \$1 million Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the new water district. The proceeds from the BAN will be used to pay back expenses associated with the formation and development of the district.

We will be working on securing easements from several property owners within the water district. After receiving the initial comments from the Monroe County Water Authority, the water district plans were amended and have now been submitted to other agencies for review including the NYS Department of Transportation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, US Army Corp of Engineers, Genesee County Health Department, Genesee County Highway Department and USDA Rural Development. (continued)

2021 TOWN BUDGET

We are working diligently on the 2021 budget. The uncertainty of funding from county and state sources is creating a tremendous challenge. There are other uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This may be the most challenging budget process in Bergen's history. We have asked all departments to trim their budgets and it is evident that they are taking the challenge seriously. At this point, we plan to hold our budget public hearing on October 27. That may change as we move through the process, but we welcome your questions and input any time.

As we move into fall, I wish all who are returning to school or college settings a safe and healthy semester. Let us all remain vigilant in our COVID-19 prevention practices.

From the Desk of County Legislator *Christian Yunker*



Summer time has brought us some beautiful weather this year. It's amazing that Summer is starting to come to a close as we look to the Fall already. From the County level, our fearless leader of the past 26 years and 364 days is calling it a career. Jay Gsell, our Chief County Administrator has officially retired and is the end of an era. Jay has put in a tremendous amount of work and service to Genesee County. He is a beacon of enthusiasm that has worked tirelessly for our County for so many years. We thank him for his tremendous service and legacy he leaves behind. Fortunately, we are passing the torch to our "homegrown" Matt Landers as the new County Manager. Matt was sworn in August 15 along with the new Assistant County Manager Tammi Ferringier, whom also has worked within Genesee County government for years. Our new leadership team has been preparing for this quite some time and have hit the ground running. We are very confident and our in great hands with Matt and Tammi leading the way.

The Legislature and the management team continue to monitor what is happening in Albany and Washington DC. Reports from our partners at the NY Association of Counties (NYSAC) are that with NY State's massive deficit we should be preparing for anywhere from 20-50% reimbursement cuts for mandated services. Without a federal aid package the State will continue to push the burden down to county and local governments. They are looking for suggestions of where mandate relief could happen, but we shouldn't hold our breath! We need to be as creative as possible look for ways to reduce government spending and not push the burden further down onto our taxpayers. On a bright note, we have received all our sales tax revenue through the first 2 quarters of 2020. We actually finalized the first half of the year only down around 8% compared to 2019, which was a smaller deficit than we had expected. The County has shared revenue distribution to all the Towns and Villages with the same revenue loss. The Legislature's intent is to continue to share the burden of revenue losses with our partner municipalities throughout the County. We truly believe we are all in this together. Every level of government are finding ways to work together to get through these challenging times. The County will likely continue to feel the impacts of Covid-19 with our local revenue and sales tax receipts, especially with Darien Lake and the Casino remaining closed through the Summer months. We will likely feel this impact in the 3rd quarter.

The County recently met our newest member of Congress, Chris Jacobs. He was updated on the County's infrastructure needs. Genesee County has 95 bridges to maintain, of those 60% are 65 years or older and of need of repair. With the County responsible for these bridges, the funds for repair either need to come from our tax levy or sales tax. We will be in dire need of federal aid to tackle some of these very necessary bridges. We emphasized the need for broadband throughout the County. We all know that this service is essential. Broadband is becoming almost as important as a necessary utility for every household. Thousands of new broadband customers in the County will be coming online this Fall. Our water infrastructure continues to move forward with Phase 2. This Summer emphasized the need for more water and the infrastructure to support it flowing into Genesee County as we were all issued a water advisory as we came very close to reaching our peak water usage during the dry heat of July. We are making very good progress on this front.

Budget season is upon us at the County, Towns and Villages. We will all be working hard to balance the needs of our citizens with dollars that it requires to do so. We ask for patience. The leadership teams in the County as well as your Town and Village of Bergen are up for the task. Please feel free to contact us anytime if you have any concerns, needs or ideas.

The Bergen Zoning Board of Appeals alternate position opening, please send a letter of interest to the Bergen Town Clerk bergenclerk@bergenny.org

This year's summer reading program "Imagine your Story!" was much different than years past. We handed out over 100 reading records and it was mainly a virtual reading program. We hope to have more hands-on programs next year.

Congratulations to Cadence Hoffman on winning the Friends of the Library Christopher and Victoria Claus Memorial Award. She won the \$50 award for writing a book review on the book Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Cady will also get her name put on a plaque in the Library. Honorable Mentions were Katherine Rogoyski and Gavin Kinkelaar. They each received \$25 awards. We had many great entries this year and plan on sharing all book reviews on FaceBook for your reading pleasure.

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 17 and younger, we need your parents/guardian to come in and sign you up.

Library hours are at this time:

Tuesday 10-5

Wednesday 10-5

Thursday 10-1 & 2-7

Friday 10-5

Hours subject to change



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

Our Book Discussion Group will begin meeting on September 10th to discuss the book Where'd you go Bernadette by Maria Semple. This group hopes to meet the 2nd Thursday each month: October 8th, November 12th, and December 10th. Come join the fun!

Toddler/Pre-school story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 11th on our FaceBook page. Join us for a story and some interactive fun! We hope to have story time in person soon at the Library – check us out on Facebook for more information or call anytime.

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!

The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost, Spectrum Internet on 2 computers, Wi-Fi, and interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system. Check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org or stop in and we will assist you! You can also friend us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the latest events. For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Happy Reading & Stay well-
Nancy Bailey
Library Manager

**Watch for information on the ribbon cutting ceremony for the
Library Renovation in October.**

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 2020-2021 hunting license. **Extra DMP’s will be available starting Sunday, November 1st 8:00 – 11:00 am** 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 17th – Pembroke Highway Garage 1145 Main Rd. (Rt.5) 4:00 – 7:00 PM
October 15th – Leroy Village Highway Garage 58 North Street 4:00 – 7:00 PM



Town Clerk Office Closings:

- September 5th & September 7th – Labor Day Weekend
- October 12th – Columbus Day
- November 11th – Veteran’s Day Observance
- November 27th – Thanksgiving Holiday

Town Clerk Hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
- 8:00 AM – Noon & 1:00 – 4:00 PM
- Saturday 9:00 AM – Noon
- 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 31st and are due by January 31st without penalty.

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





Election Day Tuesday, November 3rd

(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 County Building #2 - 3837 West Main St., Batavia

Saturday, October 24, 2020	Noon – 5:00 pm
Sunday, October 25, 2020	Noon – 5:00 pm
Monday, October 26, 2020	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, October 27, 2020	Noon – 8:00 pm
Wednesday, October 28, 2020	Noon – 8:00 pm
Thursday, October 29, 2020	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday, October 30, 2020	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday, October 31, 2020	Noon – 5:00 pm
Sunday, November 1, 2020	Noon – 5:00 pm

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10 HUNTER STREET

BERGEN, NY 14416

bergenny.org