

Town of Byron Newsletter



Volume 1, Number 61

Supervisor

Unfortunately, the end of summer is around the corner.

I'd like to say thank you to the highway department (Billy, Brian, Todd and David) for getting quite a bit done this summer, from our roads to our parks and the flower boxes on the corners, and everything else they take care of for the Town. And speaking of parks, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Aidan McClurg, who did his Eagle Scout Service Project at Trestle Park. He had many volunteers, including the Marines, to help do significant work on the trails through the woods, adding a new trail, and completely redoing a current trail. I hope everyone takes the time to appreciate the hard work that Aidan has done, and if you know or see Aidan, please tell him thank you!

The Highway Superintendent was very instrumental in converting all of our street lights to LED lights, which should be a huge savings for the Town.

We hope to put out to bid this fall our Water Benefit Area #1, which should pretty much cover all residents who do not currently have municipal water. We are hoping that the price of pipe will come down before we put it out to bid.

We have applied for and received a grant for COVID relief, which will definitely be a big help in the budget. As far as the budget goes, we have already begun working on the 2022 budget. As of right now, it looks as though there will be no increase in the tax rate, which is good news to all. As always, we have been very conservative on spending any Town funds and it has paid off.

Solar has been relatively quiet, we are currently going through all the legal aspects that are required by law.

As always please try to attend town board meetings, which are now in house, the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

Peter N. Yasses, Supervisor

Town Clerk

The Byron Kiwanis and the Town Clerk's Office will be selling Town of Byron commemorative throws to celebrate our Bicentennial, the cost is \$40 and will need to be prepaid. Please either call the Town Hall or Karen Jaczynski at 585-314-4245.

I would like to, once again, thank Emily VanEenwyk, Nathan Knickerbocker, George Squires, David Leaton, the Byron-Bergen Public Library, the Byron Fire Department, and all of the parent volunteers who helped to make this years summer recreation program such a success!

Have a safe Fall,

Debra Buck-Leaton, Town Clerk

Highway Superintendent

The Highway Department has had a busy summer doing lots of road work and maintaining the Town's parks. We are continuing to do more road work as time and money allow.

The Highway Department installed a new dock at Turtle Park on Mill Pond for your fishing enjoyment. Please be respectful of the parks and notify me if you see anything suspicious.

We continue to do roadside mowing, please be aware and alert when coming upon the mower.

Thank you, David Leaton, Highway Superintendent

South Byron Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.

Hello members of the community.

We have a very long overdue announcement. We have worked hard with fundraising, donations, and a grant from the Senator's Office to be able to update a piece of our equipment. In May of 2020, we replaced our 1997 Freightliner/ New Lexington Fire Equipment Pumper/ Tanker with a 2020 Spartan Metro Star 6-man Custom Cab Legend Pumper with a Cummins ISL 380 HP Engine. The water tank capacity on our new truck is 1000 gallons.

During the summer, Bergen Scout Troop 31 did a service project at our Fire Hall and worked on painting our back building. The boys and our members did a great job on this on-going project.

We will be resuming our Fire Department calendar drive this year, so everyone be on the lookout in December for those! As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Stay Safe!

Respectfully,

Theresa Hammer

Secretary

South Byron Volunteer Fire Co. Inc

sbfiresec@richester.rr.com

585-409-9028



Byron Presbyterian Church

Byron Presbyterian Church Annual Turkey Dinner

Keep your eyes peeled for a turkey on a tractor! He will lead the way to our annual Turkey Dinner at the Byron Presbyterian Church. We promise to have more turkey, more stuffing, more everything!!

When: Sunday, **October 17, 2021**

Time: 11 AM to 2 PM

Cost: \$12/dinner

How: Drive Thru Only – follow the turkey signs!!

Turn down Terry Street. Turn onto Mae Street.

Turn onto Pauline Street and enter the driveway.

Your order will be taken. Pay for your dinner.

Proceed to receive your dinner!

Never leave the comfort of your vehicle. Voila!

For more information please call the church at 548-2800.

CHURCH BASICS:

Sunday In-person Worship, 9:45 AM, with Sunday School during the same hour.

Zoom-only service at 11 AM (please call the church for access codes)

Pastor: Rev. Jim Renfrew

Church Office: 585-548-2800

The church has a web page (www.byronfpc.org) and a Facebook page.

SUPERHEROES OF THE BIBLE

We're learning about superheroes of the Bible this year.

**Join us as we teach our kids about all the wonderful
and exciting people found in the Bible.**

We will have stories, crafts, and we bet there will be capes!!

**Sunday, September 12th @ 9:45 am Children (4 yrs. old & up) will
be excused from the service after the children's sermon.**

After church we will have doughnuts and refreshments for everyone – adults and kids alike, to celebrate the fall season. We hope to see you there!!

*****We will need our superheroes to wear a mask during class. We want healthy, happy heroes! But never fear.... we have special superhero face masks as well, and we've managed to add a 2nd table to our Sunday School room to give everyone a little extra elbow room!!***



This year's summer reading program "Tails and Tales!" was a success!!! Over 130 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., Chark's Glass & Mirror, Miller's Millworks, Wal-Mart of Batavia, Rochester Museum & Science Center and Target – Batavia, Without the generous donations of these merchants, our summer reading program wouldn't be possible.

Congratulations to Grace Clark on winning the Friends of the Library Christopher and Victoria Claus Memorial Award. She won the \$50 award for writing a book review on a book she enjoyed reading this summer. Grace will also get her name put on a plaque in the Library. Honorable Mention was Rena Wilson. She received the \$25 award.

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.

Library hours are:

Tuesday 10-1 & 2-7

Wednesday 10-1 & 2-7

Thursday 10-1 & 2-7

Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-1



Discover us on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and on Facebook and Twitter too! We have Overdrive/Libby digital audio, digital magazines and e-books, 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 9th at 6:30pm. This group meets the 2nd Thursday each month: October 14th, November 11th, and December 9th. Come join the fun!

Toddler/Pre-school story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 17th. Join us for a story, craft and a treat! This is recommended for ages 2-5 but younger children are welcome with their parents/guardian. Registration is appreciated.

Teen Boxes at your Library - grades 6 and up! The boxes will contain 2-3 Library books & some special goodies and/or activities for you to keep! All you need to do is stop in and fill out the short questionnaire by September 15th! Then you can pick up your Teen box anytime the week of September 27th during Library hours.

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 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-Nancy Bailey, Library Manager

From the Historian's Desk

Article from "The Buffalo Courier Express" Newspaper, Buffalo 5, N.Y., Sunday Morning, July 2, 1961 page 17,

Written by columnist Bill Lamale

"People Differ On Name Origin of Pumpkin Hill"

BYGONE ERA—Not much will become of Pumpkin Hill. The railroad passed it by a generation or so ago, and even today trucks and buses don't stop there. But there was a time it flowered and was known around the countryside.

That's what they were saying the other afternoon in Art Sand's grocery atop the "hill." They said that and more. State Rd. 237 between Byron in Genesee County and Holley in Orleans County is Pumpkin Hill's connection with the world. The two-lane highway is almost level except for one rise in the ground about two miles north of Byron. That's Pumpkin Hill, an extra nudge on the gas pedal to most motorists.

MAYOR—There's not much to distinguish Pumpkin Hill. At the foot, along Spring Creek, is an old-fashioned worm fence. On the gentle slopes of the hill are a dozen neat frame homes, with wide lawns and handsome elms, and children playing on tree swings made of old tires hanging from rope.

Sand's grocery is a whitewashed concrete block building, with an awning in front weighted at each end so it won't be raised by gusts. Next door is a gaunt, gray building, the former Baptist Church. On the other side is an old red barn with cupola. Sometimes groceryman Sands sits on a white stool in front of his establishment. He's the "mayor" of Pumpkin Hill.

"The story is," he said, "that a farmer was hauling pumpkins up the road here when the tailgate of his wagon flopped open, and the load fell out and rolled downhill. That's how we got the name."

DIFFERS — But George Jones, born on the hill 57 years ago this August (1904), had a different impression. There was a big hotel across the street with a gilt pumpkin sign hanging over the entrance. "The hill got to be known because of that hotel sign."

Some Pumpkin Hill residents commute to jobs in Batavia or Rochester. Others are retired. A few farm the broad fields that stretch out in every direction. Once a month, the Byron Grange holds meetings in the former church building. Herbert Hay said he remembered talk that Mamie Eisenhower used to visit Pumpkin Hill as a girl, staying with the Dowd family that used to live there.

MARKER—Fred Covington, 84, spoke between squirts of tobacco juice. He had watched a Geodetic Survey man set up a marker at the base of the hill. It said the land there was 666 feet above sea level.

Weather can be severe on the hill, Gladys Sands, wife of the grocer, observed. "It's a mild winter if we don't get snowed in here at the store," she said. "Last winter it happened once." The fall was dry, added Jones, noting that in his parched lawn appeared the outline of the foundation of the hotel which burned in 1904.

The busiest days of Pumpkin Hill were all in the past, they said. A cooperage shop flourished there, turning out barrels for the apple harvest. Diagonally across the road from Sands store was an elementary school, humming with the recitation of scholars. And all day long one could hear the clang of the blacksmith's anvil.

BELL—On Sunday the Baptist church bell rang, and George Jones said it was the prettiest sound and could be heard for miles. Those were the days of church socials, box suppers and lawn parties.

BIG DAY—July 4 was the rip-roaringest day atop Pumpkin Hill, beginning with the ringing of the church bell at midnight by pranksters. "And then someone would shoot off the anvil," George Jones said. "There was a hole drilled under the horn, and this was loaded with black powder. After it was fired, your ears would ring for hours."

Everyone remembered Howard Watson, who died last year at 76 (born in 1885). He always pushed his bicycle up the hill, bought groceries and then coasted most of the way home.

No one grows pumpkins around there anymore, they said, but every October Art Sand sells some for Halloween decorations. Nearly everyone calls them "punkins."

Byron Cemetery Association

The Annual Meeting and Trustees Meeting of the Byron Cemetery Association was held on April 21, 2021 Reports from the secretary, treasurer and co-superintendents were presented, discussed and approved. Trustees were elected and the slate of current officers was approved for another term of office. John and Donna Durand were appointed the co-superintendents. New members are always welcome to join this group. Please contact President, Kim Dewey, 585-356-2256 if you would like to be part of the association.

Reminders about decorations and plants at the cemetery.

- Decorations may be placed between April 1st and October 1st .
 - Kindly place moveable pots or containers in line with the marker. This helps with mowing the grass.
 - Please do not place any glass containers in the cemetery.
 - Live plants (trees, shrubs or flowers) should not be planted in the cemetery without the Byron Cemetery Association’s permission. They require maintenance and this has to be taken into consideration before they are planted.
- Your cooperation is greatly appreciated

The cemetery looks wonderful due to the hard work and dedication of John Durand and Dave Leaton. John keeps the grass mowed and makes sure the trim work is completed. Dave Leaton assists with trimming bushes, repairing grave markers and other tasks that need to be completed. John and Donna Durand complete paperwork needed for burial plots. Their knowledge of the cemetery is immense. The commitment of these three volunteers is greatly appreciated.

There are many available cemetery plots. If you are interested in choosing your final resting place, John or Donna Durand would be happy to show you the eligible plots.

Plot and Burial Prices

Cemetery Plot (4x10) \$600	Pet Burial \$400
Burial \$600	Cremation burial \$400

Burials on Sundays & holidays are an additional \$100. Additional charges may be added for snow removal & penetration of frost depending on the costs to the cemetery.

“Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.“

~Life & Death Quotes www.geckoandfly.com

Trustees:

- Kim Dewey, President
(585) 356-2256
- Laura Bestehorn, Vice President
- Kate Wride, Treasurer
- Dave Leaton Jr. Vice Treasurer
- Elaine Bezon, Secretary
- Audrey Henry
- Barb Read

Superintendents:

- John Durand (585)813-3531
- Donna Durand (585)813-2591

Community Events

NORTH BERGEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FREE FOOD PANTRY

7068 North Bergen Road, Bergen. September 15th and 22nd 6:00-8:00 p.m. Some clothing, personal items, household items and books inside.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL DINNER MEETING

September 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Byron Fire Hall. Please RSVP to Laurel Smith at 548-2555.

BARLEY & BOOKS

A benefit for the Byron Bergen Library. Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Auction at 3:30 p.m. Hosted by Mark and Wanda Swanson, 7620 Swamp Road, Bergen. Tickets available at the Byron-Bergen Library or call 494-1120 for info.

TOWN OF BYRON BICENTENNIAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Byron Town Hall.

Honor Flags

The Honor Flag program in Bergen is now open to all veterans regardless of when they served. Residents of the Village and Town of Bergen and any Byron-Bergen graduate serving presently or with an honorable discharge for past service qualifies, regardless of current residence.

Information can be found on the Bergen Village website, or calling the Village of Bergen at 494-1513. Applications are available at the Village office, the website, and at the American Legion in Bergen.

Byron-Bergen Imaginary Library

The Byron-Bergen Imaginary Library is celebrating three years of providing free monthly books to our littlest residents (0-5). This program is completely funded by community businesses and individual donations. We welcome all donations and registrations. For more information contact Donna Gerrard 548-7380 or Anna Marie Barclay 494-1979.

2021 Anti-Rabies Immunization Clinic

Offered by the Genesee County Department of Health on the following dates and locations:

September 16, 2021 4:00 to 7:00 pm **Genesee County Fairgrounds**

October 14, 2021 4:00 to 7:00 pm **Genesee County Fairgrounds**

A voluntary donation per dog, cat or ferret is requested to offset clinic expenses. Animals must be leashed or crated and accompanied by someone who can control it.

Now available, save time by filling out your registration form before the clinic at:

<http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/health/index.html>

PLEASE BE SURE TO PRINT 2 COPIES FOR EACH PET



Picture #1 is of a catfish caught by Dan Voltura from Batavia at Trestle Park. It was 22” long and it’s weight was estimated to be 5-6 lbs.

Picture #2 is a largemouth bass about 12” long and 2 lbs., also caught by Dan Voltura.

Picture #3 is a very large snapping turtle. Dan describes the head as “softball size” and the turtle in general as “pre-historic looking”.

Dan stated that he always releases the fish that he catches.

Town Clerk’s Office Hours:

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9:00 a.m.-12 noon & 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.**

Thursday and Friday: 9:00 a.m.-12 noon

Saturday: Closed

Phone Number and Extensions:

Town Hall - Highway Garage - Sewer Dept.
585 - 548 - 7123

Supervisor—Peter Yasses	Ext. 14	Highway Dept.— David Leaton	Ext. 11
Town Clerk—Debra Buck-Leaton	Ext. 10	Cell phone:	402-4717
Court Clerk—Michelle Caballero	Ext. 18	Assessor— Barry Flansburg	Ext. 17
Sewer Dept.	Ext. 12	Town Justice Smith	Ext. 18
In an Emergency (Sewer Dept.—Shaun)	585-322-0006	Town Justice DiMatteo	343-2770
CEO/ZEO—Mike Morris	Ext. 15	Councilman Sue Fuller	300-3456
Councilman Josh Kent	813-1760	Councilman Eric Zuber	746-5158
Councilman Jeff Thompson	851-1469		