

# Town of Byron Newsletter



*Volume 1, Number 57*

## Supervisor

Water Improvement Benefit Area #1 has been approved for financing with \$4.425 million in grants and \$5.550 million in loans, and an interest rate of 1.875% for 40 years. This will complete water to almost every house in the Town of Byron. There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the South Byron Fire Hall parking lot, please practice social distancing and a mask is mandatory.

The latest update on solar, as you are aware there was a virtual open house on Monday, August 31st, I hope that all of your questions were answered, and if not, please call 1-800-674-8613 to join the project stakeholder list. The Town Board is continuing with the Town of Byron Solar Law, with a public hearing happening soon. There are a couple of naysayers that say that the Town Board is not listening to the people, which is not true. The Town Board has a duty to listen to ALL residents, which the Board does, however, we are limited in what actions we can take, and people need to understand that. The Town has hired special solar counsel to guide and protect us all, and the Board takes their recommendations very seriously. If you ever have any questions regarding solar please call me and I will try to answer your questions or find out the answers for you.

At this time, our Town Board meetings are being held via Zoom to protect everyone. We highly encourage you to join these meetings on the second Wednesday of every month for information, and DO NOT rely on social media to give you the wrong information. You only have yourself to blame if you do not attend a meeting and complain about a lack of information later! The Zoom link will be on the Town website ([www.byronny.com](http://www.byronny.com)) prior to the meeting.

As many of you know, our sewer maintenance company have been out uncovering tanks to be pumped soon. If you happen to see a couple of men in your yard digging, this is why. It is done every 4 years.

Respectfully, Peter N. Yasses, Supervisor

## Town Clerk

I hope you've had an opportunity to browse through our Community Free Library across from the Post Office on Rte. 262, I think it's a great addition to our Town.

Summer rec is over and even though we had to make some modifications I think a good time was had by all the kids. I'd like to thank Emily VanEenwyk, Nathan Knickerbocker, Dayanara Caballero, George Squires, Logan C., the Byron-Bergen Public Library and all of the parent volunteers for your help and dedication to make the summer youth recreation program a great success.

Stay safe and be well,

Debra Buck-Leaton, Town Clerk

## Highway Superintendent

The Highway Department have been busy with road repairs this summer, and have finally finished the last of the paving. Thank you for being patient as we work to improve our roadways as it is a necessary evil during late spring and summer.

We have continued to work in the Town parks, removing brush and repairing equipment. We're hoping that recent measures to control ATVs and other motorized vehicles will prevent the parks from the damage they have seen in the past. Once again, if you see something suspicious, please either call the Sheriff's Department or myself.

Thank you,  
David Leaton, Highway Superintendent

## Park Committee

The Town of Byron Park Committee serves our community by managing park access & pavilion rentals (in conjunction with the Town Clerk), park maintenance (in conjunction with the Highway Department), and development of park facilities, like playground equipment, shelters, trails, tables and benches, and rest rooms. In recent months the Committee has been reviewing town policies relating to park use. More than anything else, our job is to promote the use of our parks throughout the year. Our town is very fortunate to have four beautiful parks:

1. Turtle Park (Swamp Road) - picnic pavilion and fishing.
2. Trestle Park (parking at Terry Street and also via the Byron-Batavia Road entrance gate) - picnic pavilion, playground, fishing and hiking trails, excellent for bird-spotting and enjoyment of wildlife.
3. Bryon Town Park (McElver Street) - two pavilions, sports fields, tennis and basketball court, horseshoes, and playground.
4. Westshore Linear Trail Park (Terry Street and multiple road crossings) - hiking, biking, horses, all-terrain vehicles.

We are especially pleased that the Byron Summer Youth Rec program uses the Byron Town Park throughout the summer.

Our parks are open from dawn til dusk, and all we ask is that park users leave the grounds looking better than when they arrived. There are, of course, additional rules governing park use posted in each park area.

The current Park Committee members are: George Squires (Chair), Al Secash (Vice-Chair), Donna Bobzin (Treasurer), Rev. James Renfrew (Secretary), Tom McGowan, Mary McGowan, and Bying Downes. There are currently two vacancies on the Committee. If you are interested in serving as a Park Committee volunteer, please contact the Town Clerk. You can also contact the Town Clerk to reserve pavilion space during the busy summer months.



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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month: October 8<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, and December 10<sup>th</sup>. Come join the fun!

Toddler/Pre-school story time will run Fridays at 10:30am starting on September 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

# Cemetery Association

Our lives will be forever changed from the COVID-19 pandemic. As we began living our lives in a different way, some things continued as usual. John Durand kept the cemetery looking pristine. He has mowed the lawn several times and arranged trimming where needed. Dave Leaton and the Town of Byron Highway Department trimmed trees. We are very grateful for all the work that takes place to maintain the cemetery. Several burials have taken place and many families have placed flowers and memorials at their loved ones' graves. Please remove these items by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Byron Cemetery Association is looking for more members! Individuals who live in Genesee County may join the Byron Cemetery Association. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Kim Dewey at 585-356-2256 for details. Several minds generate new ideas and help make important decisions.

**New Signs:** Tom Chapell, owner of Visual Impact Graphics, designed new signs for the cemetery. The main sign on Townline Road needed replacing and signs with rules, a map and contact phone numbers have been completed. They will be installed in the near future. We greatly appreciate Tom designing and creating the signs at no charge.

Take a drive to the cemetery to check out the new signs.

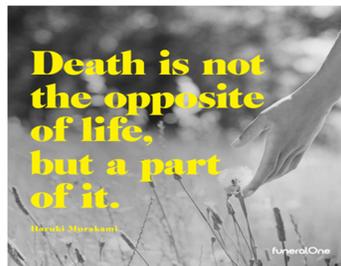
**Annual Meeting:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Meeting of the Byron Cemetery Association has been postponed indefinitely. An Annual Meeting will hopefully be held in April of 2021. More information on this meeting will be posted in the Daily News in the Public Notice section. Copies of the 2019 financial report and minutes may be obtained in writing: Byron Cemetery Association P.O. Box 66 Byron NY 14422.

Considering planning ahead for your cemetery plot? Contact John and Donna Durand. They are the Superintendents of the Byron Cemetery. They could assist in this process. There are many available plots and the Durands could show them to you. Your beloved pet may also be buried in our cemetery. The Cemetery Association is very grateful for all the time and effort they voluntarily contribute to the Byron Cemetery.

### **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.



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Trustees:	Superintendents:
Kim Dewey, President (585) 356-2256	John Durand (585)813-3531
Laura Bestehorn, Vice President	Donna Durand (585)813-2591
Kate Wride, Treasurer	
Dave Leaton Jr. Vice Treasurer	
Elaine Bezon, Secretary	
Barb Read	
Audrey Henry	

## Byron-Bergen Imagination Library

The Imagination Library through the Richter Family Foundation has delivered over 4,000 books to our important residents of the Byron-Bergen school district, ages birth to 5 years.

This program is only possible with local donations. At present we provide approximately 110 children in the Byron-Bergen district with monthly books. This program would not be possible without the generous donations we have received from local individuals, businesses and organizations. All tax deductible donations are used entirely to pay for the books and postage. Byron-Bergen donations are used solely for the Byron-Bergen district children. The cost per year per child is approximately \$25.00 to receive monthly books.

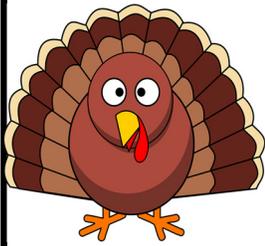
Without the donations the children would not have this program be a reality, which we believe encourages our young future leaders to develop a love of reading.

The Richter Family Foundation provides brochures, handles the registering and ordering, and provides the necessary 501(c)(3) non-profit status the local community needs to raise the funds to participate, through the tax deductible donations.

We need community monetary support to help keep this program active. We welcome donations of any amount, at any time. Please consider sponsoring a new baby, grandchild, neighbor or friend. Registration and donation forms are available at the Byron Town Hall or by contacting one of the members below.

Thank you for your past donations, they were well used to bring the monthly books to our young readers! We are grateful for your continuing, necessary support.

Anna Marie Barclay 585-494-1513  
Donna Gerrard 585-548-7380



**BYRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER**

6293 West Main Street, Byron

Sunday, October 18th from 11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. **DRIVE THRU ONLY**

**\$10 per dinner for turkey with all the fixings!**

## Byron Rescue Squad

It's time for a change. The Byron Rescue Squad is ready for a new ambulance. Their current ambulance will be 12 years old this month. When the cost of repairs begins to rise and you have an older ambulance it is time to start looking for a replacement.

The Byron Rescue Squad averages over 100 calls a year. They are part of the Byron Fire Department #1 just off Route 262. The EMS Services started in 1975. Rescue Squad Captain Brad Nickerson has been an EMT for over 15 years. The Squad has recently moved to an Advanced Life Support level to better help those in need. There are currently 12 EMT's in the Squad. Three are certified as Advanced EMT's. The Rescue Squad does not charge for its services and all the members are Volunteers. They do not receive any pay for their Service to our community.

So, how does the Byron Rescue Squad pay for an ambulance and medical supplies? The answer is easy. The residents of Byron donate each year when they receive a Fund Drive letter. Other donations received during the year all add up and keep this valuable service going. With the arrival of Covid19 the need for EMS has remained high, but their ability to Fund Raise has become much harder. The need for a new ambulance to cover 911 calls for the next 12 years is an additional strain on their finances. So, a GoFundMe page has been started in addition to the annual Fund Drive Letter this year. The Rescue Squad is asking for your help to spread the word and support this worthy cause.

### 2020 ANTI-RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

Pembroke Highway Department 1145 Main Road (Rte. 5), Pembroke	September 17, 2020	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
LeRoy Village Highway Garage 58 North Street, LeRoy	October 15, 2020	4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Each dog, cat and ferret must be leashed or crated and accompanied by someone who can control it. Dog, cat and ferret vaccinations are free. Voluntary donations are accepted. 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.

## Historians

We would like to ask you to send in a Family Story or Family Genealogy of your family of how you came to call Byron home. We are going to take these stories and compile a book with them for the Town of Byron 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration next year. In the 150<sup>th</sup> and 175<sup>th</sup> edition program books there were family stories and genealogies. If you had a family article in one or both books please consider updating your story. If you would like a copy of a previous family article let us know. Call 585-409-5990 speak with Bob.

For example: “The Edgar B. Wilson Family”

Edgar B. Wilson son of John & Addie Wilson, born December 27, 1910 Auburn, New York. Edgar along with his brother John Wilson were raised on the Darch Family Farm on the Upper Holley Rd, Byron, New York. Edgar worked on the Darch Farm when he met the love of his life, Peggy Davis Patten.

Peggy Davis Patten came to Byron, New York at age of about 10. Peggy was born Aug 7, 1919 Reading, England. Peggy and her mother Lily came to the United States in 1926. They first settled in Dauphin, Pennsylvania. Peggy’s mother Lily married George Patten on September 7, 1926. George & Lily, and Peggy settled in Byron, New York in the early 1930’s.

Edgar and Peggy met on the Darch Farm where they both were working. They married in the Byron Presbyterian Church April 16, 1939. They had a daughter Dorothy born in 1941 while working on a farm in the Town of Alabama. They bought a house on Mechanic Street before their son Robert was born in 1952. They moved to Castile, New York in the Fall of 1986.

Edgar and Peggy were active in the South Byron Volunteer Fire Company becoming life members. They encouraged their children and grandchildren to join the Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts. They were members of the Byron First Presbyterian Church where they enjoyed helping with the annual Turkey Dinners.

Their daughter Dorothy moved from Byron to see the United States. Dorothy passed away July 4, 2017 in Ohio. Dorothy married Jack Taylor and had two children. Edgar and Peggy were given custody of Dorothy’s two children Tammy and Eric Taylor.

Tammy Taylor married Michael Tooley and had a daughter Stephanie L. Tooley in 1982. Tammy moved to Batavia where her husband was working. Tammy and Michael divorced on friendly terms. Tammy married Todd McConnell and had a son Sean McConnell in 1994. Tammy and Todd divorced few years later. Tammy married the true love of her life Chip Longabough July 4, 2002. Tammy and Chip call Ithaca, New York home. Stephanie passed away in a car accident in September 2003. Sean McConnell is busy driving truck.

Robert Wilson graduated from Byron-Bergen. He entered the Air Force in 1971 for four years. He met his wife Elizabeth Hall of Oakfield. They married and made Mill Pond Road home in 1982. They had two daughters Kimberly and Karen. We became your Town Historians in 2002.

# Byron Fire Department

The Byron Fire Department has decided to cancel the 2020 Sportsman and Turkey Raffles due to COVID-19.

Just a reminder, it is illegal to burn garbage/refuse at any time of the year, and you will be fined if you are caught doing so.

The fire department also wants to let property owners in the Town of Byron know that our ISO (Insurance Service Organization) rating has improved from a 9 to a 5. What does this mean to you? The lower the ISO number, the lower the cost of fire insurance. When your fire insurance is due for renewal please make sure that where they list the ISO rating it shows a 5 rather than a 9. This rating is good for 5 years, and may mean a reduction in your property insurance premiums from the previous 9 rating. Many times when they bill they do not look good for 5 years. If you have any questions your insurance agent should be able to help you.



## Town Clerk's Office Hours:

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

**Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-12 noon**

**Friday and 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—Morgan Leaton	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		