

Town of Byron NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Number 5 Spring 2007

From the Supervisor's Desk

Water is coming. The weather in the past months has allowed our contractor to move ahead of schedule. The main line is ninety-five percent completed. Boring under the Thruway is yet to be done. The contractor needs three or four days of temperatures above thirty-two degrees to do the bore. The pressure reducing valves will arrive about mid-March to install in vaults in South Byron, and at the end of Cockram Road. When the boring and the vaults are completed the line will be flushed, pressure tested and disinfected. The contractor is also installing the lateral connections and curb boxes at this time while waiting for the boring to be done. When the main line is done, and the line has Health Department approval, citizens will be able to start connecting. This has been many years in the making. Thanks to all involved present and past.

Westshore Trail committee persons from Byron have been meeting with people from Bergen and Monroe County to possibly improve the conditions of the railroad bed. An engineering firm has been contacted to develop a potential long term plan of improvements for recreational biking, hiking, walking, horseback riding, four wheeling, snowmobiling and other uses. By working together they may be able to create a linear park from Byron through Bergen and into Monroe County.

Many thanks to George Heins and all the full and part-time Highway personnel who helped to keep our roads safe this winter!

Steve Hohn, Deputy Supervisor

Clerk's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who so generously gave to our two Byron families that wouldn't have had a Christmas without all of you!!! I had the wonderful opportunity to deliver the Christmas gifts to these families (with Santa and his helpers; Gloria Chapman and Andrea Golino), and the joy and appreciation these children expressed is a humbling experience I will not soon forget! Thank you all again!

The end of tax season is soon approaching! You

can pay your taxes at the Clerk's Office until March 31st. After that date you will need to contact the County Treasurer for the correct tax amount and for payment.

Happy Easter

Just a reminder--we will be having a dog census this year, so please don't forget to license your dog(s).

Hope you're enjoying our wonderful Winter!

Debra Buck-Leaton
Town Clerk

Zoning/Code Enforcement

Another summer awaits us so it's time to be updated on the in's and out's of Zoning & Code Enforcement and various possible requirements prior to your project getting off the ground. Following the simple procedures will make any Zoning/Code requirements easier to comply with.

The Town of Byron has a **Land Separation Law**. This Law deals with the new land parcels that are being separated from larger parcels for building projects or sale. The Planning Board has an application and procedures list that will assist you which is available at the Town Clerks Office. I am available to answer any questions and get your application on the Agenda for the Board to review and act on. I need the paperwork a minimum of 5 days before the meeting, which is the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The **Zoning Law** and/or **NYS Building Codes** will also apply to your project. Setbacks from property lines, based on the use and size of the project, which may be professional or private use, home occupation's, animal stable, storage shed's, decks, addition's, solid fuel heating appliance's or an accessory building, to name only a few. Yes all building/structures need a Zoning Permit, which is the placement and use of the project, on the parcel. The **N.Y.S. Building Code** regulates the construction of the building or structure for the applied for use. There are NEW regulations for pools that are included in the Code this new season. They deal with new requirements for a pool alarm and fencing. These rules apply to both in or above ground, hard and read this, the soft sided pools too. Yes, even those pools require permit's, pool alarms and fencing. Putting one of the soft sided pools up without a permit is illegal and a late fee will be assessed. A note to those residents that still have open permits for pools, it will be in your best interests to close those permits out by calling me so that I can issue the final Certificate of Compliance. In most cases it's just the final electrical inspection that is necessary. Your help is appreciated.

More involved projects or uses may require a **Site Plan** and/or **Special Use Permit** review by the Planning Board or if a **Variance** is necessary, a review by the Board of Appeals. Both of these processes do take a few meetings for approvals. So plan early by calling me to review what, if any, permits are required. In most cases it just takes a simple meeting at your project site and a permit can be issued. Then you may get started on your project. The application that gets you started may be picked up at the Town Clerks Office. After filling it out, please call me to schedule an appointment, at the project site.

Now to a new regulation that the State of New York mandated and unfunded, is that each Town that enforces the **N.Y.S. Building Code**, pass into law by January 2007. This new law, which is called The Local Law for the Administration and Enforcement of the N.Y.S. Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code - long name for the 1203 law. This law covers all buildings, structures and premises, regardless of use or occupancy covered by the Building Code. Generally it covers the transfer of the law from the older State Code and its enabling law, to the new International Code and this (1203 law) enabling law. As always the state mandated new minimum standards for inspections for various buildings and structures.

Part of the law passed states:

(a) Inspections required. Fire safety and property maintenance inspections of buildings and structures shall be performed by the Code Enforcement Officer or an Inspector designated by the Code Enforcement Officer at the following intervals:

(1) *fire safety and property maintenance inspections of buildings which contain an area of public assembly at intervals not to exceed one year;*

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(2) fire safety and property maintenance inspections of all **multiple dwellings and all nonresidential occupancies** at intervals consistent with local conditions, but in no event shall such intervals exceed one year for dormitory buildings and **three years for all other buildings.**

and in part:

(a) Operation Permits required. Operating Permits shall be required for conducting the activities or using the categories of buildings listed below:

(4) buildings containing one or more areas of public assembly with an occupant load of 100 persons or more;

I am in the process now of compiling the list of affected Commercial Buildings and other structures of Public Assembly that will fall within the scope of law and will require an inspection.

I am available most every day, at reasonable hours at my Home/Office or Cell #. A voicemail message can be left for me at either number if I am not available. I will attempt to return the call as soon as possible.

If you have any questions please call at my **Home/Office #:** 585-494-1073 or **Cell #:** 585-356-2137.

Bob Patterson
Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

From the Office of the Assessor

The review of properties for the annual update for the Town of Byron is almost complete. The change notices should be mailed out the second week of March. The notices will show your new assessment and the tax impact of the new assessment if budgets stay the same next year. These will only be estimates as we can not predict what budgets will be in the future. The Town of Byron is an annual update town, which means assessments are reviewed each year and adjustments made based on the market value changes. The major change for the 2007 update will be changes in land values. Please review your change notices once you receive them and contact the office if you have any questions. The notices will also include a cover letter explaining the notice and review period times.

Once the new notices are sent out, the new values will also be posted on the real property website. You can check all information and sales at www.oarsystem.com/ny/geneseecounty. Pictures will also be posted at the site. All roads have been done except Searls, Shelt, Swamp, Tower Hill, some of Walkers Corners and Warboys. When the weather turns nice again, those roads will be finished and the pictures posted.

Please feel free to contact the assessor's office with any questions or concerns. Office hours are Thursday afternoons after 1 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by calling 548-7123 ext. 17, or call and leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Barry Flansburg, Assessor

Byron Nursery School

The Byron Nursery School is accepting applications for the 2007-2008 school year. We have openings in the 3 and 4 year old classes.

For more information call Laura at 548-2245 or Paula Hohn at 548-9051.

Thank you again for your continued support and Think Spring!

We are also accepting applications for a teacher's aide position. Please call Laura Platt for more information.

Upcoming Events

March 24th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Inside Treasure Sale at the Byron Fire Hall. To rent a table or for more details call Laura Platt at 548-2245 or Tammy Wells at 548-2777. See you there!

April 7th 2:00 SHARP!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Byron Fire Hall. Sponsored by the Byron Ladies Auxiliary and Kiwanis.

April 19th 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Genesee County's Individuals With Developmental Disabilities Dance at the Byron Fire Hall. Volunteers welcomed! Any questions, please call Laura Platt at 548-2245.

April 25th 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Chicken and biscuit dinner at the Byron Fire Hall. Deputy John Dehm will be speaking on various topics from 7:00 p.m. until ?

May 12th 9:00 a.m.

St. Jude's Bike-A-Thon at the Byron Park to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Everyone is welcome, including young children who will be doing laps around the tennis courts. Sponsor sheets are available by contacting Laura Platt at 548-2245.

May 28th 11:00 a.m.

Byron Memorial Day Parade with ceremony at the cemetery. The Byron Presbyterian Church will have activities after the parade. Games with prizes, sandy candy, free family games in the center of the park. Food and music with Dennis Dennehy, "The Country Crooner", classic country music. The music is being brought to us by the Byron-Bergen Library. The Byron Fire Department will be having a John Deere raffle with drawings starting at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and there are 5 packages you have a chance to win. Will there be plants? Come and find out! Local organizations are welcome to set up a table for free. Crafters are welcome also. And don't forget the duck race. Please come out and see your old neighbors and meet your new ones! To reserve a spot, please call Laura Platt at 548-2245.

Starting July 12th 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Concerts in the Park. This summer the Byron Town Park Committee will arrange to have outdoor concerts in Fireman's Park. We should be able to come up with four concerts like the last two years, but would like to be able to offer more for the town. If any group or business would like to sponsor a night, please contact Laura Platt at 548-2245. Benefits for the sponsoring agent would be that they could tie in light refreshments or possibly a chicken BBQ, along with getting their name out in the community. Please consider holding an event so the Concert in the Park series will continue into August.

Byron Rescue Squad

ATTENTION! The Byron Rescue Squad is looking for new members to join the Rescue Squad.

Training is available for qualified members. You will become a NYS Qualified Emergency Technician and help provide emergency care to the residents of Byron and surrounding towns. Call any Squad member or Squad Lieutenant Brad Nickerson at 548-7487 for an application or more information. Our thanks go out to all the residents of Byron for their continued support.

Gillam-Grant Community Center

ENCORE EVENT-DUE TO POPULAR

REQUEST: "Are There Protective Spirits Hovering Around You?" Come and find out! Special "John Edwards" type dinner program to be held on Monday, May 14th beginning at 6:00 p.m. Three certified Mediums will be here to do readings and answer questions. Dinner is hot turkey, vegetable, beverage and dessert for \$15.00. Program follows. Adults only, please. Limited seating available so call 494-1621 to reserve tickets.

"MAD Scientist" - Wednesday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. Come watch real money burn without burning! Lots of weird science to be enjoyed by all. No fee, no registration necessary.



Toot & Puddle Night - Come join us at the Gillam Library to celebrate National Library Week on Wednesday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m. for a very fun Craft & Storytime with these 2 adorable piggies! All ages are welcome and no registration is necessary.

"Origami for Seniors Workshop" to be held after lunch (12:30 p.m.) on Friday, May 11th. Learn how to make some very creative and fun shapes out of paper and delight your grandchildren! No charge to seniors and is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the NYS Council on the Arts, administered by the Genesee-Orleans Arts Council.

"Rainbow Fish, Can I Have a Scale?" Cute program starring Marcus Pfister's Rainbow Fish. Ages 3 and up. Craft and snack included. Please call to register at 494-1621.

"Bring Your Pet To The Library" will be held on Wednesday, May 30th at 7:00 p.m. This is an interactive program where everyone brings their favorite pet to the center for all to see. This is a Very fun and interesting evening! No horses or ponies, please. :)



June Book Sale! Friday, June 1st. Over a thousand books need a good home. Open during regular library hours.

Sewer Department

Dear District Residents,

As springtime approaches many areas of maintenance are getting planned for the upcoming months. Central Byron areas of Rte. 237, Townline Road and McElver Street will have septic tanks inspected and pumped. We also need to continue our efforts on the flushing and cleaning of distribution lines at the treatment facility. This was started last spring and proved beneficial to maintaining compliance to discharge permits and hopefully give us more years of quality treatment before rebuilding or adding on. Collection system distribution lines leading to treatment facilities recently have been a big concern for the department. For the most part, the entire collection system is made up of 4" collector lines, therefore, continued efforts to assure adequate flow to the treatment facilities is essential through the smaller diameter pipes. We are planning on addressing areas in all the hamlets of North, South and Central Byron.

If you have service needs feel free to call me at 548-7123 ext. 12, or my cell at 356-7842.

Have a great spring!

Bob Cudney, Town of Byron Sewer Dept.

Gillam-Grant Community Center

Chicken BBQ at Gillam-Grant

March 25th from Noon - 4:00pm

(or till they are sold out!)

Take out or Eat-In

\$7.00 pre-sale or \$7.50 door



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Saturday, March 31 ~ 8:30am to 10:30am

All you can eat pancakes! Yes, the Easter Bunny will really be here! Kids can do Easter Egg coloring and decorating too! Call Gillam-Grant Community Center, for tickets or information 494-1621.

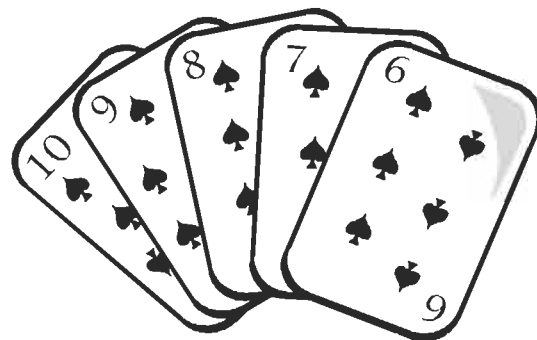
Adults \$6.00

Children 12 & under \$3.00

Egg coloring/decorating \$2.00.

Atlantic City Trip

Diamond Tours is coordinating a trip to the beautiful Tropicana Casino Hotel from **June 6-June 8**. The hotel is located across from the beach, on the Boardwalk, near golf courses, with indoor & outdoor pools plus much more. Cost includes transportation, 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts and \$20 coin bonus on the first day. Departure from GGCC is the morning of June 6th returning the evening of June 8th. Cost for this great trip is **only \$207** (based on double occupancy)! **Deposit of \$20 is due by March 30 and final payment is due by April 30.** Call GGCC at 494-1621 to reserve your seats as soon as possible. Limited number of spots available.



Few shows have touched audiences like RIVERDANCE, the Original International Phenomenon. Now, this thunderous celebration of joyful music, song and dance that has thrilled over 16 million people around the world is at Shea's Performing Arts Center and Gillam-Grant has your ticket! Call by March 19 to get your reservation **494-1621**.

Show time is Saturday, April 21.

Ticket prices: \$37 M / \$40 N M –red
 \$53 M / \$56 N M –green
 \$62 M / \$65 N M –blue

Bus transportation will leave Gillam-Grant at 12:30 for a 2:00pm show.

Upcoming Senior Evening Meals

Dinners are planned for Mondays on April 23, May 14 and June 25. Our June meal will be an outdoor picnic with entertainment by the LeRoy Central School "Good Knights". Come and hear music of the 60's by this very talented all male student group.

Byron-Bergen Library

Stop in and see us at the Library soon!! We are located at the Bergen Town Hall- 13 South Lake Ave. Our hours are: Tuesday 10-12 & 2-8, Wednesday 1-8, Thursday 2-8, Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-1.

We are still in the process of Automating, but will be on-line soon!! Looking for something special – check out the NIOGA catalog at www.nioga.org!

Book discussion will be meeting on March 15, April 12 and May 10!! Come join this fun group and see what your neighbors are reading!!! We enjoy lively conversation about a book and refreshments to enjoy too! Stop by the library to reserve your copy of our current book.

Put March 14th on your calendar for a special preschool program with Glenn Colton. He will be at the Bergen Presbyterian Church at 10:00 a.m. with an interactive show of songs, stories, and fun!! This special program is for all our preschoolers to enjoy, but everyone is welcome! Funding for this program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization program, a regrant program of the New York State Council of the Arts, administered by the Genesee-Orleans Arts Council.



Teddy Bear Story Time is March 20th at 6:30 p.m! Bring your favorite teddy or other stuffed animal to join us for a story or two, craft and treat! No registration necessary!

Spring Break Happenings:

April 5th from 6:30-8:00, join us for a Dance-Dance Revolution party!!! We will be having a fun dance competition!! Recommended for ages 10 and up!! Come see how well you and your friends dance. Pizza and drinks provided by the Friends of the Byron Bergen Public Library. Registration is required! Sign up soon!!

Craft Day at the Library! Stop by the library for a fun 3-D butterfly craft on April 12th at 6:30. Space limited- sign up soon!

We will be closed on Friday April 6th and Saturday April 7th for the Easter Holiday!! Enjoy your Easter!!

April 16th- 21st is National Library Week. Stop in and take out a book or two and have a chance to win a prize!! Spring Fling Story Time will be on April 17th at 6:30. Join us for a story, craft and a special spring treat! Storytelling with Sue will be April 19th at 6:30. Join Sue Hengelsberg as she brings to life stories from around the world! This free program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization program, a regrant program of the New York State Council of the Arts, administered by the Genesee-Orleans Arts Council.

The Library will be offering a Babysitting course with American Red Cross Instructors on April 21st from 9-3. The cost is \$28 and includes the book. Please register by April 17th – class size limited. Stop in the Library or call with any questions.



The Bergen Historical Society and the Library will be presenting a program on May 3rd at 7:00pm. Go back in time as Denise Richards portrays Amelia Earhart and learn some astounding history about her! Refreshments to follow! No registration necessary.

May 28th at 12:30 at the Byron Presbyterian Church the Library will be hosting the musical talent of Dennis Dennehy! Join us after the parade for some fun and music with your friends and neighbors.

Join us on June 9th for a book sale at the Bergen Park Festival!! We are closed this special day so you can enjoy this fun community day! The Library will be sponsoring entertainment by 78RPM at 1:00pm with some great 50's music and more!

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Don't forget to check out the library during our Summer Reading program. This year's theme is "Get a Clue @ your Library". We have many activities planned for everyone! Look for a schedule of events coming soon!



Come check out our newest books: Innocent in Death by J. D. Robb, Plum Lovin' by Janet Evanovich, High Profile by Robert Parker, Step on a Crack by James Patterson and Web of Evil by J.A. Jance. If they are not on the shelf, ask at the desk to reserve a copy! We have been adding to our books on CD collection with Thirteen Moons by Charles Frazier, Ten Days in the Hills by Jane Smiley, Dear John by Nicholas Sparks, and The Outsiders by S.E.Hinton.

The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost, Roadrunner Internet, and interlibrary loans from any library in the NIOGA Library system. If you can't find it at our Library, please ask! Stop in soon! For more information on our services or programs, please call the library at 494-1120. No registration is required for our programs unless stated otherwise!

Happy Reading,
Nancy Bailey

Byron Kiwanis

The next few months are very busy for our Byron Kiwanis. We want to thank all the area residents who have supported our local activities this past year. Our fundraising efforts will benefit our community in many ways.

This spring we are sponsoring a student from Byron-Bergen who will be attending the annual Hugh O'Brien Leadership seminar. It is also time for seniors to apply for our scholarship program. The Byron Kiwanis is awarding three \$500.00 scholarships to area scholars. Applications can be obtained at our local website at www.byronkiwanis.org or the local schools. For further information you can contact Karen Jaczynski at 548-9940. The deadline will be April 30, 2007 for submission.

We are looking for nominations from community members for our Art Weldon Community Service Award. Art was a lifelong member of our organization whose service to our community in many varied ways was neverending. Laura Platt was the honored first recipient and we intend to present this year's winner at the Byron Heritage Festival on July 14, 2007. If you know someone whose service to those in need should be recognized, please let us know. The Kiwanis Club address is PO Box 5, Byron NY 14422. Any of our members would be willing to take the information from you.

Future events include a community Easter egg hunt and fingerprinting session at the Byron Heritage Festival. We meet at the Byron Hotel on the first, second and fourth Tuesday of the month. New members and new ideas are always welcome.

Byron Fire Department

We are bringing to the attention of all residents that we have a critical problem in our midst. We are in desperate need of volunteers for our fire departments and rescue squad. Due to aging membership and fewer young people joining, we are at a crucial period.

We are looking for people who are truly committed to volunteering. We are interested in people who will be in the area for a length of time because the cost of training is costly to the department. We have had many train and then shortly thereafter leave the department.

To become a firefighter requires 78 hours of interior and 27 hours of exterior firefighting training. In order to be a medic it requires 130 hours of training.

The fire departments receive tax money from the town, but it does not begin to cover the cost of operations. We must also rely on fundraising to cover these costs. Imagine what the tax burden would be if we had to resort to a paid fire department and paid rescue squad.

Our greatest shortage is during the day because a majority of people work out of the area. At times we have to rely on mutual aid for fire calls and Batavia paramedics for medical calls, which can be costly to patients.

If you are interested in joining, stop at the fire department on Monday nights, or contact a fire or rescue person for an application.

We are also looking for social members to help with fundraising.



BYRON YOUTH RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAM

The Town of Byron will be starting a youth recreation summer program beginning July 9th at Fireman's Park. The program will go from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with no cost to participants. Daily programs will consist of a blend of supervised recreation, arts and crafts, games, nature and environmental programs. There will be occasional field trips to other sites within walking distance to the park. If you are interested in sending your child(ren), please call Laura Platt at 548-2245 or stop at the Town Hall for a registration form. There will be a Byron Youth Recreation Summer Program Open House at Fireman's Park on Friday, July 6th, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Also, we are looking for two part-time staff members for the Youth Recreation Summer Program. Please send resumes to the Town Clerk at P.O. Box 9, Byron, NY 14422. The applicant qualifications are as follows:

RECREATION LEADER: The Recreation Leader should be able to demonstrate certification and/or experience in work with children, with at least one year of college education. Responsibilities would include the following: lead children in daily and weekly activities as instructed by Co-Directors, provide safe, structured outdoor activities, function in a professional manner, child-centered, and responsive to parents. First aid training would be helpful. Training will be provided through the Genesee County Youth Bureau.

RECREATION AIDE: The Recreation Aide will assist the Recreation Leader and should be 16 years of age or older.

Town of Byron Participates in Trail Feasibility Study

The former New York Central Westshore Railroad alignment extends from Churchville in Monroe County to the Village of Oakfield in Genesee County. The Genesee Sno-Packers and Sleds of Stafford snowmobile clubs currently use and maintain this popular snowmobile trail and substantial portions of the alignment are owned by the Town of Byron, the Town of Bergen, and the County of Monroe. The trail corridor is included in the Regional Trails Initiative prepared by the Genesee Transportation Council (2002-2004) and has been recommended to be studied for potential development as a multi-use trail.

A Steering Committee is being formed to study the feasibility and conceptual design for a trail that could be used by hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, and snowmobilers extending from Churchville in Monroe County to Transit Road on the Elba/Byron town line in Genesee County. The study is co-sponsored by the Towns of Byron, Bergen, and Riga, the Village of Churchville, and the Monroe County Parks Department. Representatives from local agencies, as well as interested groups such as snowmobile clubs, the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society, and private owners of sections of the former railroad alignment are invited to participate in the feasibility study Steering Committee.

An organizational meeting was held on February 8, 2007 at the Churchville Village Hall to discuss the study scope and to identify parties to be invited to participate in the Steering Committee. The project consultants, Lu Engineers, presented an overview of the study and issues that may affect trail feasibility within the alignment corridor. The agencies and project sponsors attending the organizational meeting identified several user groups and property owners that may be affected by the project and that accordingly will be invited to participate in study Steering Committee.

Two public forums will be held to discuss the feasibility and the conceptual design for the trail project. The first is anticipated to be held in May or June of 2007. Property owners are invited to attend the Steering Committee Meetings that will be held in conjunction with the public forums and that will guide the consultant in completing the study. Affected parties are invited to contact the following individuals to obtain further information about the feasibility study: Councilman Tom Felton (548-7399, Town of Byron Committee representative), Robert Torzynski (232-6240, Genesee Transportation Council Project Manager) or Fran Reese (277-1450, Consultant's Representative).

2007 Anti-Rabies Immunization Clinic

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

May 17, 2007	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Pembroke Highway Dept., 1145 Main Rd., Corfu
June 28, 2007	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	LeRoy Village Highway Garage, 58 North St.,

LeRoy

August 16, 2007	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Genesee County Fairgrounds
September 20, 2007	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Pembroke Highway Dept.
October 18, 2007	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	LeRoy Village Highway Garage

Byron Heritage Committee

P.O. Box 22

Byron, New York 14422

THE BYRON HERITAGE FESTIVAL IS BACK !!!

Hi Everyone,

I am back on the committee for the Byron Heritage Festival. With the help of a great committee the Byron Heritage Festival is back and will be held July 14th. Please set aside that day to get together with your relatives and friends to have a good time at the Byron Community Park, to talk about old memories and make some new ones.

The committee has a number of great things planned for people of all ages. I am working on the parade. The parade will start at 10:30 a.m., won't be as big as in the past, but I am sure you will enjoy it.

This announcement is the first one of two to let people know how they can participate and have a good time doing it. We are looking for people that would like to have a float in the parade. The float could represent your group that you belong to, such as the Boys and Girls Scouts, a 4-H Club, a Church Youth Group, or a group from the Byron Bergen School or Gillam Grant Community Center. The float could represent an activity that you and your group do, such as the Byron Bergen Girls' Volleyball Team. A float could also represent your place of business, your farm, or your church group. There are so many different groups that could be acknowledged.

We are also looking for individuals that would like to decorate their bike, lawn mower, or tractor. How about riding your horse in the parade?

A Car Show will also be held, it would be wonderful if the people entering the Car Show would be in the parade. I know there are many beautiful antique, classic and modified cars, trucks and street rods in the area.

If your group is trying to earn money to hold a special event, this would be a great time to let people know what, when, and where your activity will be held.

You can send a note to the Post Office Box address above to let us know that you might be interested. Remember, there will only be one more Town of Byron Newsletter before the Heritage Festival is held. Please keep this Town of Byron activity in the forethought of your mind, by marking your calendar. You and your family can help make it a great Town of Byron event by participating, or just come to enjoy.

See you soon,
Jeanne Freeman

Assemblyman Steve Hawley

139th Assembly District

Albany Office: Room 433 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248 Telephone: (518) 455-5811

District Office: 121 N. Main Street, Suite 100, Albion, NY 14411 Telephone: (585) 589-5780

February 28, 2007

HAWLEY'S ALBANY UPDATE - Workers' Comp Reform Agreement Reached

This week in Albany, an agreement was reached by lawmakers and Governor Eliot Spitzer to reform the state's workers' compensation system that ranks 2nd in the nation in cost per case and 48th in paid benefits.

As a small business owner, and member of the Assembly Task Force on Small Businesses, I have been a vocal advocate for the measures included in this agreement since my first day as your Assemblyman.

Workers' compensation costs have been forcing companies and jobs to leave our state at an alarming rate. Businesses and injured workers have been suffering under this outdated and broken system. I am encouraged that this agreement will help to strengthen New York's position in a global economy.

We have been in dire need of cost-saving measures to help businesses and a benefit increase to improve the quality of life for injured workers. That goal has been realized and I am proud to be a part of an agreement that makes a difference for people across the state.

Under the agreement, benefits for workers will increase for the first time in more than a decade while employer costs will drop 10 to 15 percent with savings to grow over time.

The workers' compensation reform agreement includes measures to:

- Provide cost savings to businesses by capping permanent partial disability benefits, while continuing medical care and establishing a safety net to assist injured workers' return to employment and intervene during cases of severe destitution
 - Increase the current maximum weekly benefit rate for injured workers from \$400 to \$500, and then increases it over a period of four years to two-thirds of the state's average weekly wage
 - Annually index the benefit for injured workers to provide further increases to counter the effect of inflation and increased cost-of-living
 - Develop fact-based medical guidelines to determine the degree of impairment
 - Expedite the hearing process for claims to ensure fast delivery of compensation and treatment to injured workers encouraging their speedy recovery and return to the workforce
 - Close the outdated and costly Second Injury Fund
 - Increase penalties for workers' compensation insurance fraud
 - Create transparency in the workers' compensation system by improving collection of data on premiums and losses.

My conference has proven its dedication to businesses and workers in the legislation we support and champion. This week, that dedication has been translated into real results that I am confident will create jobs and tend to workers' needs.



Genesee County Legislator, Charles N. Zambito, District #2

On February 14, 2007, Genesee County Legislature Chairwoman, Mary Pat Hancock, gave her annual State of the County address in which she discussed significant issues considered by the Legislature during the past year and our primary goals for 2007. Last year was the first under the State Legislature's new Medicaid Cap program in which the increase in Medicaid costs to the County was capped at 3%. While this still represents an increase in our costs, it is substantially less than we had been experiencing, and knowing the amount of increase in advance made budgeting much easier. Indeed, the savings from the Medicaid Cap was a primary reason we were able to reduce the property tax rate from \$10.25 per thousand to \$9.98 per thousand and reduce the overall tax levy by approximately \$200,000. We also agreed on a plan to reduce and eventually pay off the County Nursing Home debt over the next 5 years. This involves borrowing \$1.8 million this year with a County cash contribution of \$500,000. Unfortunately, we have recently learned that the Governor's 2007 budget proposal calls for changes in funding to nursing homes that could result in a loss of revenue to our nursing home of approximately \$500,000. Although we don't currently know which, if any, of the Governor's proposals will be adopted by the State Legislature, we have decided to "set aside" an additional \$500,000 to cover this loss of revenue should it materialize. At the same time we will be lobbying our state representatives to take action to avoid these cuts. Finally, at the end of 2006 and beginning of 2007 we were able to reach an agreement with the CSEA employees that included a provision for employee contributions to the cost of health care of approximately 10% by all employees. We now have contracts with all five bargaining units and all contracts provide for employee contributions to the cost of health care.

As for the future, I would agree with Chairwoman Hancock that our primary goal should be and will be to further reduce property taxes. I am confident that by working closely with our various departments and outside agencies, seeking consolidation and/or cooperation with other municipalities whenever and wherever possible, and continuously keeping a close eye on spending, we be successful in reaching that goal. Having said that, I think the Chairwoman was correct in addressing the need to make sure that our infrastructure, particularly our highway system, is well maintained and brought up to date. We will be taking a close look at our needs in that regard this year. We are also looking forward to the completion of the Sheriff's Administration Building, which is expected in October. If you have traveled Park Road recently you are aware that construction is well under way thanks to the mild early winter weather. We will also continue to pursue our effort to refinance the loan with respect to the County Water Project and reducing our annual payments on that loan. We are optimistic about the chances of doing so and hope to have an answer to our application before June.

Here's hoping for an early spring!