

# Town of Byron NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Number 2 Summer 2006

## Upcoming events

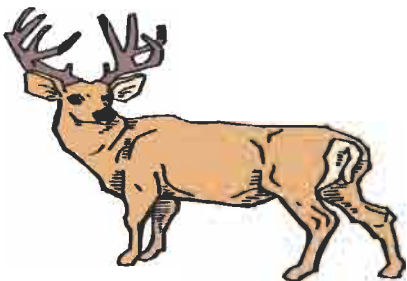
**Town-wide Garage Sales -**  
Saturday, July 22nd from 9:00  
a.m. until ? Start weeding out  
your garage sale items now and  
pricing them so you won't get  
overwhelmed - it's easy!

Anyone is welcome to set up a  
table on the Presbyterian  
Church lawn. To be on the list  
call Laura Platt at 548-2245.

**Byron Kiwanis Beef BBQ &  
Auction - Sunday, September  
17th from 12:00 p.m to 3:00  
p.m. at the South Byron Fire  
Hall.**

**ATTENTION:**  
*Hunters!*

The DEC has announced that  
hunting licenses will go on sale  
August 14, 2006.



## From the Supervisor's Desk

Bids for the construction of  
Water District #2 were opened on  
May 23rd. We had been warned by  
Clark Patterson Engineers that  
because of increases in the cost of  
steel pipe and other petroleum  
related costs that we may not have  
adequate funding for our project.  
For this reason, the project was put  
to bid with the option of using 8 inch  
main line rather than all 12 inch.

Nine bids were submitted and  
the low bid was  
from Randsco  
Pipeline Inc. of  
Victor, NY. The  
results were that we  
have enough  
funding for all 8  
inch main line, lack  
about \$100,000.00  
of having enough  
for a combination  
of 8 inch and 12 inch, which the  
engineers consider adequate, and we  
lack \$300,000.00 of having enough  
funding for all 12 inch main line.  
We are in the process of trying to  
find additional grants, and the

engineers are working with the  
contractor to find some cost savings.

Rural Development has now  
promised \$46,000.00 more in grant  
funds, and we have a request for  
assistance in to Senator Rath's  
Office. The bottom line is Water  
District No. 2 will get water. The  
only question remaining is how  
much 12 inch main line we can  
afford. The engineers assure us that  
with the amount of 12 inch pipe we

can now afford,  
there will be  
adequate flow for  
fire protection  
and future  
development. We  
expect to be able  
to award the bid  
in July, and  
hopefully,  
construction can



begin in August.

*Continued on page 2*

Unless unforeseen circumstances arise, we would expect to award the construction contract at our July 12th Town Board Meeting.

The Town Board has appointed Barry Flansburg to the position of Town Assessor. Several of you have already met Barry. We are fortunate that he was available to serve as acting assessor, and with the help of Joe Macaluso was able to cover our assessor position on short notice following the resignation of Anne Sapienza.

Highway Superintendent George Heins and Councilman Craig Ferguson have been working to finalize plans for another Salt Storage Barn. The Town was awarded a grant from the New York State Department of Conservation, which will pay for 50% of the cost of the project.

In December 2005 we submitted a package of information and application to the Insurance Services Office Inc. for review of our town's ISO rating. This rating is used by insurance companies to determine premiums to be charged residents for insurance coverage.

In April, we were advised that on the basis of the information submitted, our ISO rating had been improved from a Class 9 to a Class of 5/8B. This is the result of having a municipal water supply and the improvement of our fire suppression services. This information could decrease your homeowners or business insurance premiums. Please contact your insurance company for more information.

We are grateful to the Byron and So. Byron Fire Department officers who spent a considerable amount of time providing the information, and to all the volunteers who provide the fire protection services.

## Clerk's Corner

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has decided to rescind the law which went into effect on January 15, 2006. Your dog's rabies vaccination can, once again, run out during your license period. If you remember, the new law said that no dog license may expire after the expiration date of the dog's rabies vaccination, and many of you had to renew rabies vaccines before you could license your dog. Let's hope they don't decide to change their minds again!

Just a reminder, there is a drop box on the left wall inside the alcove when you enter the Town Hall. Feel free to leave sewer bills, dog licenses, etc. in the drop box when the office is closed.

I hope everyone is having a safe and wonderful summer!

## Highway Department

A joint paving project on Transit Road with the Towns of Byron and Elba, each sharing half the road, was completed with the help of the Towns of Alabama, Oakfield, Stafford, LeRoy, Pembroke, Barre and the Genesee County paving crew.

We have replaced eighteen culverts, which were completely rusted through, and replaced with plastic. Hopefully for a longer life.

Road reconstruction and drainage will continue on the east end of Tower Hill Road

between Byron Road and Route 237. We will be working on one end of Tower Hill Road at a time to allow access to the Pumpkin Hill Veterinary Clinic. Please bear with us during the construction.

Roadside mowing is continuing between vacation time and reciprocating with other town highway departments.

The new Town pickup is getting excellent gas mileage, and rides like a dream!

The highway department has community service people working at the highway garage and doing cemetery maintenance on stones and landscaping.



# Byron-Bergen Public Library

Summer Reading is coming!!! This year's theme is "Books: A Treasure!" The Byron-Bergen Public Library and the Gillam-Grant Center Library will be teaming up to kick off this fun summer event with funding from the Federal LSTA monies. We will be having story times, craft times, visiting story tellers, and a reptile show! Sign up anytime after June 20th at both Byron-Bergen Public Library and the Gillam-Grant Center Library and earn double prizes to join the FUN!!!

Looking for responsible kids age 11 years old and older to help volunteer during the summer reading program. Stop by and pick up an application now!!! You can win prizes for volunteering, get a look at all the new books and DVD's, and get a chance to win tickets to Seabreeze Park!!

The ending reading program will be hosted by Byron-Bergen Public Library and the Gillam-Grant Center Library on August 7th at 6 pm at the Byron Park with Gary the Happy Pirate!!! Come join us for our closing ceremonies with cake, prizes, and tons of pirate fun!

The Library has preschool story time at 10:30am starting June 30th. Home school children are invited too! We enjoy stories, a craft and a yummy snack! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library. Join the fun this summer with your young children!!! There's magic in every book!

The American Red Cross Babysitting Course will be offered at the Library on July 18th-19th from 4-8pm. You must be at least 11 years old and able to attend BOTH days to be certified. Please call 343-6098 to register.

Concert in the park will be starting again!!! The Library will be hosting Ghost Riders on July 26th at 6:30pm. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy some down home country music!!! Refreshments will be available to purchase. This program is supported by funds from the Village of Bergen.

The Library is hosting the last concert in the parks at the Byron Park with The Avengers on August 17th at 6:30pm. Bring your lawn chair and join us for some Blues and R&B music! Refreshments will be available. This free program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization program, a regrant program of the NY State Council of the Arts, administered by the Genesee-Orleans Arts Council.

Best sellers available at the Library are:

Beach House by James Patterson

Marley & Me by John Grogan

Two Little Girls in Blue by Mary Higgins Clark

The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown is also available at

the Library!! Stop by to reserve a copy before you see the movie! 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! Please call the library at 494-1120 for more information on our services or programs.

Happy Reading-

Nancy Bailey, Library Manager



## FROM THE BYRON-BERGEN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD:

As many of you are aware, in 2005, we secured funding for automating the Byron-Bergen Public Library as well as our contracting library in the Gillam Grant Community Center. Senator Mary Lou Rath and former Assemblyman Charles Nesbitt showed their ongoing commitment to our community by helping us to secure the funding. Our efforts are also supported by the Towns of Byron and Bergen. The process of automation was launched in May of 2006 with the delivery of the automation equipment, and training of library personnel. This is an ongoing process that we anticipate to be completed by the end of 2007.

Those of us involved with the libraries are very excited to deliver this new functionality to our community. Automation will bring your libraries to you by giving you the ability to order books and search the whole catalog from the comforts of your own home, as well as accelerate the check-in/check-out process in the libraries with the simple swipe of a card.

We anticipate a smooth transition to our new system while at the same time, continuing to serve our community and patrons. We thank you for your patience and commitment to the library community.

Sincerely,

Byron-Bergen Public Library Board

# From the Office of the Assessor

My name is Barry Flansburg, and I have been appointed the new assessor for the Town of Byron. I would like to thank the Town of Byron Town Board for giving me this opportunity to serve the people of Byron. I have been the assessor in the Towns of Barre and Oakfield for 15 years and will continue to do those Towns along with Byron. Office hours will be on Thursday afternoons and Fridays in Byron or by special arrangement, if needed. Please feel free to call the office at 548-7123 ext. 17 with any questions.

Assessment information is now available on-line. Genesee County secured a state grant to give public access to assessment information. The web address is: [www.oarsystem.com/ny/geneseecounty](http://www.oarsystem.com/ny/geneseecounty). All the information at this site is public information, and can help you see what properties are selling for, and allows you to do comparable analysis to see how sales may affect your assessments in the future. Check out the site and I would like to hear your comments or concerns so we can make this site useful for everyone.

The Town of Byron is part of the annual reassessment program. This means that each year an analysis of each

property is done to determine if the sales of property in the Town of Byron indicate that assessments need to be changed. I will be doing several things for the 2007 reassessment. I plan on taking a picture of each property. I should be starting



in July and hope to have the pictures done by January. Feel free to stop me and ask questions if you see me out taking pictures. I will have a sign on my vehicle for the assessor's office. Change notices should be sent out some time in March 2007. The 2007 notices will have a tax impact section showing what impact your new assessment may have on your taxes in the future. It is important to

remember that the budgets that are passed by the entities that tax you determine your taxes, not your assessment.

I look forward to being the assessor for the property owners in Byron. Please feel free to call or stop in. Any group or organization that would like me to come and speak about the assessment process should call the office and I would be glad to set something up.

Thank you,  
Barry Flansburg  
Town of Byron Assessor

## Planning Board Position Open

The Town of Byron Planning Board has an opening for an alternate member to the Planning Board. If you think you may be interested in applying for this position, write a letter stating why you are interested and your qualifications.

# Park Committee



On Memorial Day, the annual duck race event took place and the Park Committee made a profit of \$290.00. Our success on the duck race was made possible by the merchants in town who displayed and sold chances on the race. Thank you to the Byron Hotel, Gillett's Hardware, Fullerino's and Rosabellas. You did great. And a special thanks to Tommy Chapell of Visual Impact Graphics who made up the duck race boards. Next year we hope to have a fifth board that will be available only at the park booth on Memorial Day. Thanks again to everyone who helped make this event a success.

With the warmer weather there is sure to be more ATV traffic on the railroad bed running through the Town of Byron. Recently, a driver lost control of their machine and went over an embankment bordering the railroad bed. This operator suffered injuries which could have been much more serious.

We hope parents, owners and operators of ATVs are knowledgeable concerning the New York State Vehicle Laws regarding ATVs. The ATV must be registered and must be licensed. You must be sixteen years of age or older to operate an ATV, or if under sixteen, an adult must be present, except on your own property. These are but a few of the State regulations. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Genesee County Department of Motor Vehicles Office.

Please parents, be aware of your children. Make sure you and they are in compliance with the New York State Motor Vehicle regulations.

Here's hoping you have a nice, safe summer and feel free

## 2006 Concerts in the Park

Held at the Fireman's Park Pavilion

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**July 20th – "Ghostriders"**

Sponsored by the Town of Byron

**July 27th – "Rawhide"**

Sponsored by the Byron Park Committee

**August 3rd – "The Cummings Family"**

Sponsored by Byron and S. Byron Fire Depts. and  
Aux.

**August 10th – Open Talent Night**

Join us for an evening of fun and showcase your talent! Contact Christine Wiegel at 548-9108.

**August 17th – "The Blue Avengers"**

(This free program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization program, a grant program of the NY State Council of the Arts, administered by the

Genesee-Orleans Arts Council.)

# The Byron Nursery School

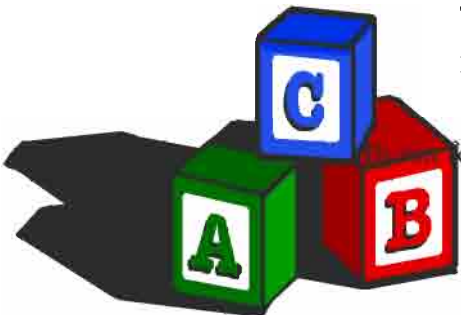
The Byron Nursery School is currently taking applications for the 2006-07 school year. There are openings in the 3 and 4 year-old programs. The 4 year-olds attend school on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The 3 year-olds attend school on Monday and Wednesday. For more information, please call Paula at 548-9051 or Laura at 548-2245.

The Nursery School will be serving refreshments at the Concert in the Park on July 20th, so please come out and support us.

Thank you to all of the parents, local businesses and people of Byron for all of their help and support with our recent fundraising.

Thank you!

The Byron Nursery School



# Byron Kiwanis

The Byron Kiwanis would like to congratulate the winning applicants of the 2006 Byron Kiwanis Scholarship. The Byron-Bergen students who were awarded the scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each are: Bob Cokeley, Bobbi Nelson and James Eick. Best of luck on your future endeavors!

Kiwanis is also sending five local Byron children to summer camp.

Byron Kiwanis was pleased to present a check for \$420.00 to Beth and Kimberly Wilson representing the proceeds of the Byron Kiwanis Euchre Tournament to benefit the Byron Rescue Squad.

Beth and Kimberly Wilson, both EMT's, accepted the gift at a recent meeting and introduced the newest (and youngest) member of the Byron Rescue Squad, Kimberly Wilson.

Byron Kiwanis and the Byron Rescue Squad thank all the wonderful people that came out to play in the tournament, and look forward to seeing everyone again when the tournament continues this fall.

Past President Glenn Elliott created the tournament that meets the first Saturday of each month from October through May. Friends and neighbors gathered at the Byron Hotel to play Euchre and support a great cause, and for once, getting Euchred wasn't necessarily a bad thing as every quarter went to a great cause.

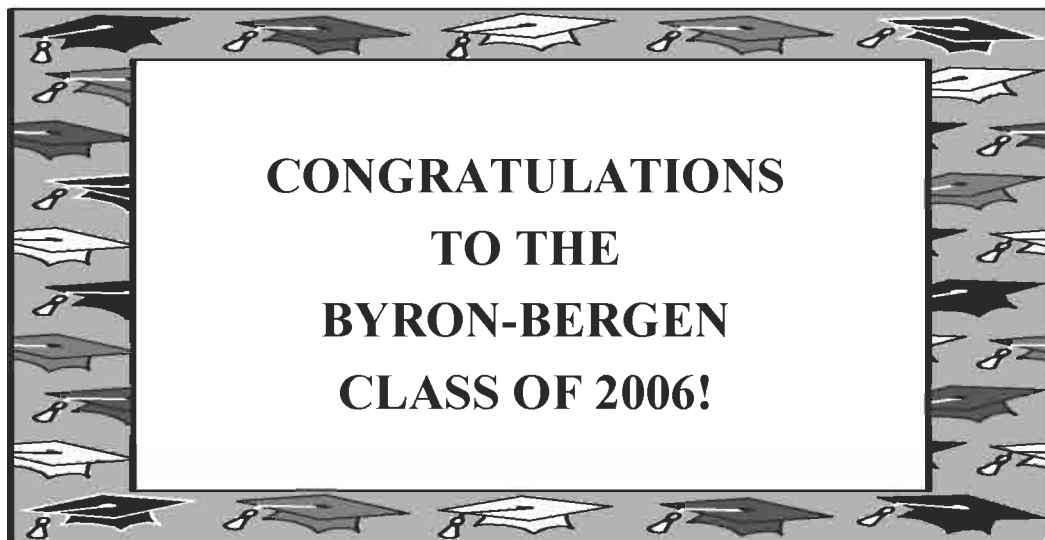
The Byron Kiwanis is in the process of establishing an "Art Weldon Volunteer of the Year Recognition Award" in honor of long-time Kiwanis member Art Weldon who passed away on May 6, 2006.

Kiwanis meets at the Byron Hotel at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month. Visitors are welcome! Coming soon - the Byron Kiwanis website!



## *A Note From the Pumpkin Hill Veterinary Clinic*

In order to have your dog or cat promptly returned if it is ever lost, please write your name and phone number on the back of its tag in permanent marker. Also, all cats should have break-away collars to prevent them from becoming entangled if let outdoors.



## **A REMINDER FROM THE POSTMASTER**

Summer is here, and that means unwanted insects in your mailbox! Please remember to be considerate of your postal carriers and clear your mailboxes of any unwelcome guests!



# For Your Information

## Byron Historical Society News

The Byron Historical Society is looking for you to become a member. Meetings are held twice a year at the Presbyterian Church. The Spring meeting is in April and the Fall meeting is held in October...usually the third Thursday of the month. Each meeting includes a delicious meal (at minimal cost) and an interesting program. Membership dues are \$2.00 per person per year. What a deal!!! For more information, please call Corky Shaw at 548-7350. Join us!

If you have never visited the Byron Museum or it has been some time since your last visit, you really should stop in on a Sunday afternoon during the summer and see what's there. You'll be amazed at the collection of historical items related to the early days of our town. The museum is open on Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day - 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.



## 2006 Anti-Rabies Immunization Clinic

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

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| August 17    | Genesee County Fairgrounds<br>5031 East Main, Batavia |
| September 21 | Pembroke Highway Dept.                                |
| October 19   | LeRoy Village Highway Garage                          |

A \$5 voluntary donation per dog, cat or ferret is requested to offset clinic expenses.

## Byron Dig Coming to Town July 22-August 12

Again, as in the past 22 years, the Buffalo Museum of Science will be in Byron for its annual dig at the Hiscock site under the direction of Dr. Richard Laub, Curator of Geology. The Hiscock site is one of the richest sites of the Ice Age in North America.

The dig brings about 150 volunteers to Byron over a three week period.



The volunteers toil in the hot sun and produce remains of animals who have been extinct over 10,800 years. Mastodons, caribou, elk, California condor, passenger pigeons, giant beaver, tools from the Pleistocene era, lithic artifacts, ancient fabric and clay pipes are just some of the relics unearthed that indicate people lived here during near-glacial conditions. A bead, made of gray sandstone, was recovered and is one of only four beads ever found in North America from this era.

Much history is being preserved from the Byron Dig. Laura Platt graciously feeds all the dedicated volunteers, starting with breakfast at 6:30 a.m. and ending with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Some of the volunteers are here for the first time, others have been here for the past 20 years. They camp in tents without electricity and running water and stay from a few days to the full three weeks. Some are students, while some are retired. These volunteers come from all walks of life.

If anyone is interested in donating fresh fruits or vegetables to help feed the volunteers, call Laura Platt at 548-2245.

# Gillam-Grant Community Center

The Gillam-Grant Community Center is offering the following programs this summer:

July 8 – Dance Sampler (4 Sat.) from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

July 10 – August 11 – A variety of day camps for pre-schoolers – grade 6

July 10 – August 10 – “Band Camp”, private or small group music lessons for grades 4 - 12

July 18 – 5 hour pre-licensing course

July 18 – August 10 – Pilates on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

July 28 – July 30 – Super Soccer Weekend

July 31 – August 4 - Soccer camp for grades 1 - 8

August 7 – August 11 – Volleyball skills camp for grades 4 - 12

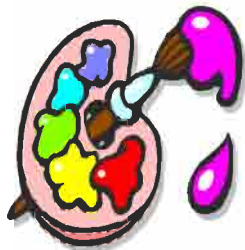
August 14, 21 and 28 – Art sampler from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

August 15 and August 22 – Mini vocal camp from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

August 22 and August 24 – Red Cross babysitting class for ages 11 – 14 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

August 24 – Ceramic Dog or Cat for ages 11 – 12 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Summer Piano lessons and Guitar lessons are available at the convenience of instructor and student.



**"Glenn Colton is Coming to Town"** on Wednesday, July 12th at 11:00 a.m. Awesome family singer/entertainer will be here for everyone to enjoy. Free to all and no registration necessary.

**"Traveling Storyteller"** from Nioga. Wednesday, July 19th at 11:00 a.m. for a special program for kids K-3rd grades. No registration necessary.

**"Fun With Feet"** on Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:30 p.m. under the pavilion at Gillam-Grant. Guaranteed to be lots of fun! Please register as space is limited.

**Byron Outreach Program at the Byron Park.** All ages welcome. No need to register.

**Ahoy, Matey! 'Tis Pirate Time!** Monday, July 17th 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. - pirate hats and fun!

**Find Me Treasure if Ye Can!** Monday, July 24th 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Treasure hunt with map.

Monday, July 31st - **Different Location:** **Byron Presbyterian Church for Littlest Pirate Puppet Show!**

Celebration of the End of Summer Reading Program with Gary the Happy Pirate Show! Monday, August 7th 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Food and prizes. Gary the Happy Pirate will be pulling the name of the winner for the ATV raffle currently being held in the library. Tickets are \$5.00 each or a book of 5 for \$20.00.

*Please contact the Gillam-Grant at 494-1621 for details or to register for any event.*

## **SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Once again this year, both the Byron-Bergen Public Library and the Gillam-Grant Community Center Library will have summer reading programs. You can join either one, or both! Our theme this year is "Books Are a Treasure!" For both libraries, you need to keep track of how many books you read, or how many books were read to you. Then, you will spin our Reading Prize Wheel (located at both libraries) for some great prizes! Sign up at the Byron-Bergen Library beginning June 20th with an awesome performer: "Cris Johnson, The Magic Man" at 2:00 p.m. and/or sign up at the Gillam-Grant Library beginning June 21st, at our "Fun-N-Sun" activity at 6:30 p.m. Make sure you sign up for one or both of these terrific programs so you can be part of the fun!

**And KEEP READING!**

Summer Reading Programs run from June 20th - August 7th

# Byron Cemetery Association

The family of Paul Wooton has given a landscaped flag pole to the Byron Cemetery Association for the new section on the east side of swamp Road. At the base of the flag pole two burying bushes have been planted. These are a memorial to Paul from the First Presbyterian Church in Bergen, and his wife, Beverly.

On July 4, 2006 approximately 65 people gathered for the dedication as the Sackett-Merrill American Legion Post 575 presented the flag to be flown on the new flag pole. Virginia Ivison accepted the flag on behalf of the trustees of the Byron Cemetery Association. Titing Wooton, who recently became an American citizen, was given the flag and she attached and raised it for the first time with the help of the Legion.

The Byron Cemetery Association would like to thank the Wooton family for their generosity of this memorial to their husband, father and grandfather.

## Land Separation Law

The Town of Byron Land Separation Law went into effect on July 1, 2006. A summary of the law is as follows: **ARTICLE I. PURPOSE:** This Local Law is enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Byron pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of Municipal Home Rule Law to regulate the division of land into individual lots, when such divisions of land fail to meet the threshold for review as a Subdivision as set forth in the Town of Byron Land Subdivision Regulations. It is declared to be the policy of the Town of Byron to consider Land Separations as part of a plan for the orderly, efficient, and economical development of the Town. This means, among other things, that lots created by Land Separations shall be of such character that they can be used safely for building purposes without danger to health, or peril from fire, flood, or other menace; that proper provisions shall be made for drainage, water supply, wastewater treatment, and other needed improvements; that all proposed lots shall be so laid out and of such size as to be in compliance with the Town of Byron Zoning Law and in harmony with the development pattern of the neighboring properties.

## Zoning/Code Enforcement

With regard to the Land Separation Law, a packet of forms and a procedure information sheet is available at the Town Clerk's Office. This law is to regulate the orderly separation of land from a larger parcel. Review the packet, and call me to guide you through the process. The Planning Board will review the submitted paperwork at their next regularly scheduled meeting. All paperwork should be received 10 days prior to the meeting by contacting the Zoning Officer. In most cases, if all the appropriate paperwork is filled out correctly, and appropriate permits are obtained from the Health Department, this process can be accomplished in one meeting. The Planning Board meets the second Tuesday of each month. Call me with any questions you may have.



For any zoning and building permits that have already been issued, please call for final inspections. This includes swimming pools, which must have a final electrical inspection prior to a certificate of occupancy/compliance being issued. Safety is a big concern!

The Town of Byron is responsible for enforcing the Building Code of New York State, of which a part of that is the Property Maintenance Code. A section of that code refers to lawn maintenance. Please mow your lawn on a regular basis, it helps keep rodents at bay and beautifies your community.

Have a safe and nice summer!

Robert Patterson, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer