

Town of Byron NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Number 6 Summer 2007

From the Supervisor's Desk

Work on the Water District No. 2 project is progressing. All of the water line has been installed (except N. Byron Road) and is now in service. Homeowner water connections at the curb are being made for those who had their supply lines installed prior to June 1st. The residents contractor will be responsible for making the curb stop connection for supply lines installed after the May 31st date. Restoration of lawns, driveways, sidewalks, etc. is underway. The contractor plans to have most of that work completed prior to the end of June. If it remains dry, you may need to water the reseeded area in front of your home so the seed will germinate. If there is a problem with restoration work on your property call Cory at 520-2428.

We have funds enough left to extend the water line down North Byron Road as far as Searls Road, which will make municipal water available to nine more homes. We expect this to be completed by late July.

There are still grant funds available to pay for residential hookups from the curb stop to the home for those who qualify financially. For more information call Kathy Dear at 295-6635.

Work on the salt barn is progressing. We hope to save several thousand dollars by using Highway Department and part-time employees. This is only possible with the leadership of our Highway Superintendent, George Heins, and Board Member Craig Ferguson, and the cooperation of our capable Highway Department employees.

We have had a few complaints recently about people burning trash containing garbage and plastic with the resulting smoke and smell spreading through the neighborhood. If you have this problem and are not successful reasoning with your neighbor, the only recourse is to call the DEC office in Avon, New York at 226-2466 and speak with Mr. James Norson, Division of Air Quality, or call Conservation Officer Richard Rauscher at 768-2653. They should respond with a verbal and written warning to the problem neighbor. To take legal action the Conservation Officer may need a written complaint unless he observes a flagrant violation.

Please be considerate of your neighbors so we can all enjoy the pleasant summer weather.

We have again had problems with senseless vandalism at our town parks. This includes using benches and picnic tables as firewood (at Trestle Park), and writing vulgar graffiti on the equipment in the children's play area at Fireman's Park.

We have a very dedicated park committee and it is discouraging to have someone destroy what our volunteers have worked so hard to build. The Town offers a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Richard Glazier, Supervisor

Clerk's Corner

The Heritage Festival will take place on July 14th, so please come out and have some family fun! Raffle tickets are available at the Town Hall and from any committee member. If you are planning on having a garage sale on that day call me so you can be put on the list, which will be available at the Town Hall for anyone who would like to have one. Also, anyone interested in having a float, classic car, organization or group in the parade, please call Jeanne Freeman at 548-7197.

The dog census will begin in the middle of August, so if you haven't licensed your dog yet, please do so.

The Town of Byron website has been updated. Go to www.byronny.com to check out the changes. You can now view the newsletter online. You can also download information and forms for the Heritage Festival by clicking the "Heritage Festival" icon. The opinion page has also been revamped and we welcome any of your opinions and/or suggestions.

The Town Hall will be closed on the following days: July 4th for Independence Day, July 14th for the Heritage Festival and September 3rd for Labor Day.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Debra Buck-Leaton, Town Clerk



From the Office of the Assessor

The 2007 New York State budget includes an expanded property tax relief program for middle-class taxpayers and increased benefits for seniors. This program will be administered by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. It will not be done at the town level.

Property owners will receive rebate checks in the fall. Property owners who receive a basic STAR exemption on their school bills will have to apply for the rebate check. The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance will notify property owners under age 65 of the program and provide application instructions. This is scheduled to start some time in August. Property owners under 65 must complete the application process and income verification to qualify for a rebate check.

SENIOR CITIZENS WHO RECEIVE AN ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION WILL RECEIVE A REBATE CHECK AUTOMATICALLY AND NO APPLICATION IS REQUIRED.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATIONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE YET AND REBATE CHECKS ARE NOT BEING ISSUED YET. NOTHING WILL BE DONE AT THE TOWN AND NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE AT THE TOWN, EVERYTHING WILL COME TO YOU FROM ALBANY. CHECK WWW.NYSTAX.GOV/STAR/2007.

Please feel free to contact the assessor's office with any assessment 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

Sewer Department

The Town of Byron anticipates conducting 5 days of leak tests in the sanitary sewer system beginning July 25, 2007. A non-toxic smoke will be blown into the system to reveal leaks that allow storm water and other surface waters to enter the system. Locating and correcting these leaks will conserve capacity at the treatment facility and reduce treatment costs.

The smoke is manufactured specifically for this purpose, leaves no residual or stains, and has no effects on plants or animals. It has a distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor. The visible smoke and odor only last a few minutes, where there is adequate ventilation.

The smoke should not enter your home. However, if smoke does enter your home any of the following items are the probable cause:

- ❖ The vents connected to your building's sewer system lateral are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.
- ❖ The traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers, floor drains, etc. are dry, defective, improperly installed, or missing.
- ❖ The pipes, connections, and seals of the building's sewer system are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

During the week prior to July 25, 2007, pour water down ALL drains in your home or building to ensure that all traps are full.

If traces of the smoke or its odor enter your house or building, it is an indication that odor from the sewer system may also be entering. This can be unpleasant, dangerous, and a potential health hazard. The location, identification, and correction of the source of any smoke entering your house is urgently advised.

The Town can provide assistance in locating the source of smoke entering your house. However, correction of any defects in the pipes and sewer on private property is the responsibility of the owner. If smoke is observed in your home and the source is not readily identified or you have any questions, please call Bob Cudney at (585) 356-7842

Highway Department

Summer road maintenance is upon the town highways after a bitter cold winter causing heaving and road breakup to occur. Town crews will be doing asphalt cut outs and shimming to repair the bad spots on roads along with some weeping to drain water away from roads. Road shoulders will be cut down on some roads to help drain water away from roads into the roadside ditches. If anyone would like roadside fill, please call me.

The Highway Department is planning on working with water pipe crews to get Freeman Road road shoulders back in shape and get a top of blacktop on the road this summer. Next year Mechanic Street is planned for drainage and blacktopping. Our highway budget, as everyone else's, is affected by oil prices, and black topping, along with stone and oiling road surfaces does not get much mileage out of our money.

The first roadside mowing should be done before this newsletter goes out. The town one man mowing tractor is working out very well going into our third mowing season.

Enjoy the summer, and **PLEASE** respect the town highway crews and machinery when they are out on the roads. They are trying to make them safer for you to travel on.

George Heins, Highway Superintendent

2007 Concerts in the Park

Held at the Fireman's Park Pavilion

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

Hot Dogs and beverages will be available

July 19th - "Nostalgic Reunions"

Sponsored by the Byron-Bergen Library

(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.)

July 26th - "Bandera"

Sponsored by the Byron Park Committee

August 2nd - "The Cummings Family"

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

August 9th - "Rawhide"

Sponsored by the Town of Byron

August 16th - Open Mike Night

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

Memorial Day Duck Race Winners

1st	#70	Wendy Capolli	\$50
2nd	#379	Riley Sadler	\$20
3rd	#179	Amanda Dodson	\$10
4th	#46	Jeremy Fuller	\$10
5th	#16	Kelly Kessler	\$10
6th	#419	Seth	\$10

Spring Raffle Winners

1st Place	Rob Coons
2nd Place	Bill Zeitvogel
3rd Place	Howard Palmer
4th Place	Ken Parnapy
5th Place	Frank Riccobono

Byron Cemetery Association

Spring has come to Byron and our Superintendents, George Heins and Scott Wooton, have been busy with general maintenance and repairing of headstones. Some of the trees around the property have become old and may need to be removed. We want to thank John and Jean Sackett for donating two trees to the cemetery. George has started a project of locating all the Veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War. He estimates that we have approximately 35 graves to locate and mark. Some of the markers are very rusty and falling apart and some are missing entirely. To honor these Veterans, new markers are needed. Anyone who would like to make a monetary donation to help with this project or our landscaping projects should send a check to the Byron Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 66, Byron, NY 14422. For other donation ideas contact Scott or George at (703-3309).

Trustees:

Shirley Hobin, Chairman	Russ Gillett
Jean Sackett, Treasurer	Terry Chapell
Virginia Ivison, Secretary	Scott Wooton

Superintendents:

George Heins & Scott Wooton

Notes From Your Historians

Few people know that Byron was one of the first towns to set up its own telephone system.

In the early 1890's a group of 14 farmers and others with like ideas, conceived the possibility that they might organize a company and construct a line to serve our rural community with telephone service independently of any outside help or company.

Those who owned property in the Byron-Bergen swamp fell and trimmed cedar poles of suitable size and length to carry the wires to the various homes of those interested, during the winter when the ground was frozen.

In the following spring holes were dug and poles set and wires strung.

Initially, phones were only in a few businesses and homes and were only interconnected to each other. You could not call out of town.

A fire phone system was set up to report fires. There was a phone in each of the fire houses that was connected to the sirens; there was also a siren atop Pumpkin Hill. There were two other phones in the system, one in the garage at the four corners of Byron, and the other in someone's home. You would dial the number for the fire department, this would start the fire sirens and someone at the garage or the home would answer the phone and take down the nature of the emergency.

When the firemen arrived at their firehalls they would pick up the phone and identify themselves. The person that received the information would relay it to the firefighters and they would respond.

I could not find when the Byron Phone Company became part of the Bell system.

Bob and Beth Wilson, Historians

South Byron Volunteer Fire Co. Inc.

I know that you have heard both Fire Chiefs encourage you to join one of the two fire companies in town. That is because both are seriously short of help, both firematically and socially.

What does that mean to you? That's a very good question.

Firematically- those are the guys and gals that come when you call for help. They are the people that put out the fires, pump your flooded cellar, come to the auto accident you are in and when you are sick or injured. They care and know that minutes count. A fire doubles in size about every minute; if your heart stops, every minute greatly reduces your chances of survival.

Socially- these are your neighbors that work bingo and put on different social events that support the two fire companies financially. Why is there a need to do that, well the town contract does not completely pay for fighting fires, pumping cellars, and the numerous ambulance calls, plus necessary equipment and training.

Byron stopped bingo a while ago, and South Byron will be suspending theirs in a couple of weeks, for at least the summer or maybe even longer. Why - not enough people to work on the committees.

How can you help fix it?

We need people, people for fundraising and people to respond to emergencies. You don't need to do both; one or the other would be gratefully appreciated.

How can you join? Well, every Monday night at about 7pm each fire house is manned for the county radio check. Come in and meet the members, get a tour, ask questions and pick up an application. My advice - visit both fire houses and see which you like.

Deputy Chief Bob Wilson, South Byron Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.

Gillam-Grant Community Center

Blast Off Into Space with Glenn Colton on Wednesday, July 11th at 11:00 a.m. Come and rock this summer with this awesome entertainer! Free to all and is made possible in part by with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the NYS Council on the Arts, administered by the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council.

Harry Potter Creature Feature on Thursday, July 19th at 4:00 p.m. in the Gillam-Grant Dining Room. Come and see some of the creatures that are featured in the Harry Potter stories! Free to all and no registration necessary.

Byron Outreach Programs sponsored by the Gillam-Grant Library at the Byron Park from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m:

Monday, July 23rd - K9 Drug Program

Monday, July 30th - DDR (Dance, Dance Revolution) at the Byron Presbyterian Church - Fun, Free Competition!

Monday, Aug 6th - Puzzle Rama 4 Kids Contest

Monday, Aug 13th - Mystery Night

July 24th at 11:00 a.m. Special story time for kids in Kindergarten thru 3rd grade. Sponsored by the Grigg-Lewis Foundation.

August 1st at 11:00 a.m. Special story-time for kids in 4th thru 6th grade. Sponsored by the Grigg-Lewis Foundation.

Second Annual Gillam-Grant Library Kids Touch-A-Thon scheduled for Saturday, August 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be a "Touch & Feel It Room", Bounce House, DDR (Dance, Dance Revolution) Competition, tryke races for Dad, cool vehicles to explore, food, and door prizes. Awesome fun for the whole family. See you there!

Gillam-Grant Library will be closed the last week of August for inventory purposes.

2007 Anti-Rabies Immunization Clinic

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

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**

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

Byron-Bergen Library

Our Automation process is going great!! More information coming this Fall!!

Stop by the Library for some fun free summer entertainment!!! We will be having the summer reading program starting June 26-August 4. This year's theme will be "**Get a Clue @ Your Library**"! We will be looking for clues, searching for lost things, learning about animals in strange places, and enjoying some fun CSI type activities. Our kick-off will be at the Gillam Grant Community Center Library with Sherlock Holmes: Gets a Clue at 2pm. Join us at 1pm for hot dogs and drink before the show and sign up for all the fun!! Stories with Margaret will be on June 28th - "Disguise and Pretend", July 10th - "Lost and Found" and July 31st - "Animals in Strange Places," all starting at 7pm. There will be a Jewelry Making workshop on July 12 at 7pm. July 17th brings you a Puzzling program at 7pm. July 18th come to the Gillam Grant Community Center to join us for a Harry Potter Creature Feature with the Seneca Park Zoo at 4pm. A special visit from Detective Schauf giving us clues for "CSI" on July 26th at 7pm. Our ending program will be on August 7th at 7pm here at the Library with a Tootsies Chase Mystery!!! This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Genesee Orleans Regional Arts Council.

Would you like to volunteer during the summer at the Library? For children 11 yrs and older, the Library is looking for help with the summer reading program. Stop by before June 19th to sign up! Chance to win prizes, help with programs, and place to meet new people! Come join by yourself or with a friend!!

The Library has preschool story time at 10:30am starting July 13th. 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 mystery in every book!

Byron Concerts will be starting July 19th with the Library hosting Nostalgic Reunion at 6:30pm. There will be refreshments starting at 6:00 and a book sale too! This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Genesee Orleans Regional Arts Council.

Concerts in Hickory Park will be starting July 18th – August 22nd at 6:30. The Library will be hosting Revolver on August 22nd. There will be refreshments and the Library will be having a book sale! Join your neighbors for some rock and roll fun!

The American Red Cross Babysitting course will be offered at the Library on Aug 20th & 21st from 4-7pm. You must be at least 11 years old and able to attend BOTH days to be certified. Please call the Library at 494-1120 to register.

The summer hours are the same, but we will be closing for Independence Day Celebration on July 3 & July 4th. We will be open July 5th -7th with our regular hours. We will also be closed September 1st –Saturday- for the Labor Day Holiday!!

Come check out our newest books: Born in Death by J.D. Robb, The Good Husband of Zebra Drive by Alexander McCall Smith, and Simple Genius by David Baldacci. 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 The 6th Target by James Patterson, Strike Force by Dale Brown, and Whitethorn Woods by Maeve Binchy. We also have a great selection of children's audio books that are great to listen to while you are driving to your vacation destination!!

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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.

Happy Reading,
Nancy Bailey

Byron Nursery School

The Byron Nursery School would like to take this time to thank Roxanne Noeth (who has been with us for 7 years), and Nyssa Kelly (who has been with us for 4 years). They have both decided to leave us. We can't thank them enough for their years of service, dedication and all of the time and love they put into their jobs! We are going to miss you both!

We are pleased to announce that we have a new teacher. Her name is Kelly Fancher, and is from Wyoming. She is a NYS registered childcare provider.

We are also accepting applications for the 3 and 4 year old programs. For more information, please call Laura Platt at 548-2245 or Paula Hohn at 548-9051.

Thank you again to the people of Byron for your continued support!

Sleds of Stafford

This past year the Sleds of Stafford (SOS) had over 450 members join our club. We have already begun our membership process for the 2007-2008 year! If you are a snowmobiler we hope you will consider joining the SOS. When you join you will be entered to win one in three chances for a Mobil gas card and you will receive a chance to win the Triton enclosed snowmobile trailer that will be give away at our steak dinner in November. You can visit our website at www.sledsofstafford.com to download an application, or better yet, complete the one included in this newsletter and send in to the address listed on the application.

Our annual landowner appreciation and chicken barbecue was held **Sunday May 20, 2007 at BW's Restaurant**. Thank you to all landowners that support our club and allow us to mark and maintain the trail system! It seems every year we receive great feedback about how much people have enjoyed our trails and it wouldn't be possible without landowners! If you are a SOS landowner and have not yet returned your permission form for 2007-2008 year please do so.

The Sleds of Stafford trail system underwent some changes in the Byron area a couple of years ago. North of Route 262 our trail no longer runs adjacent to the Byron Cemetery. ***Please be respectful of the property and find an alternate route.*** Our trail now runs south to Stafford off of the West Shore railroad bed. We appreciate your cooperation in advance!

Over the summer we will not hold general membership meetings in June or July. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday August 1, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stafford Fire Hall**. For a full list of club events, updates and other important information feel free to visit our website at www.sledsofstafford.com.

Byron Fire Department

I would like to thank the grant committee for all their tremendous effort and hard work they are Annette Lamarca, Jeff Parnapy and Donna VanSlyke. As many of you may already know the Byron Fire Department has received a sizeable amount of funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's Fire Protection and Safety Grant. We have acquired \$152,399.00 through this national competitive grant. The funding will be used to purchase much needed equipment to ensure the safety of firefighters, and aid in the response and tactics of emergencies. The cache of equipment purchased includes a thermal imaging camera, portable and mobile radios, turnout gear (personal protective equipment), air packs, and a stand by generator. We have just received the thermal imaging camera with the remainder of equipment to arrive over the next month or so. As training continues for the use of the new tools and reinforcement of techniques, we urge everyone to stop in and see for yourselves the advancements that are constantly developing in fire service. Regular training nights are every Monday starting at 6:30 pm. The department personnel would love an opportunity to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

Please join me in congratulating our new members over the past year: Zack Johnson, Jeff Thomas, Kevin Thomas, and Eddie Sharp, all of whom have completed the 76 hour Firefighter I training.

As a general reminder, if you plan on having a controlled burn other than a "camp fire", the local fire chief or assistant chief needs to be advised, as well as a call to fire dispatch (343-5000). A 24 hour notice minimum is requested. Only combustible materials such as wood and paper may be burned, and there may be an inspection by fire personnel. **If the fire service is called to a reported fire where non-combustibles, not limited to plastics, "garbage" or other materials, the fire department is instructed to extinguish and notify proper authorities such as law enforcement and DEC.**

Douglas VanSlyke – Chief, Byron Fire Department

Contact info: Byronchief@rochester.rr.com; Firehall- 548-2206; Cell- 356-9186



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 complete the attached registration form and mail it to the Town Clerk, or you can contact Laura Platt at 548-2245. 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.

Park Committee

I would like to let the people of Byron know about a couple of positive and negative things that are going on in our parks. In Trestle Park we have planted around 350-400 trees. The trees are of several different varieties. In Fireman's Park we have the first part of the fence up along the driveway. We have also started fixing the fence around the tennis court. We installed three new nets and tightened up the backboards on the basketball courts. We will be staining the gazebo and six new picnic tables. These are the good things!

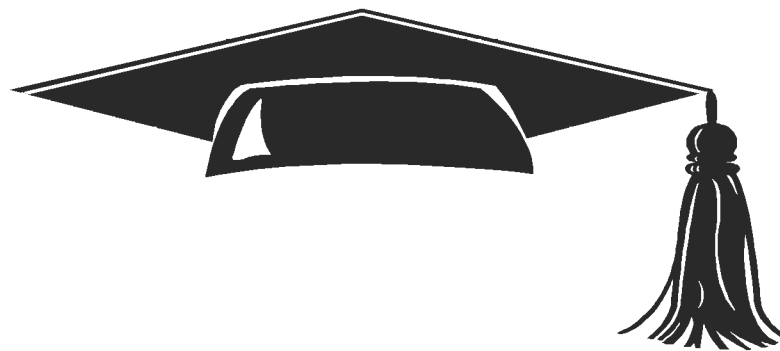
Now for the negative things. In Trestle Park on May 20th we found one of the new park benches all torn apart. Five of the six 2 x 4s were ripped off the bench and used for fire wood. The 2 x 4s need to be replaced in order for it to be used again. The cost of the bench was \$90. Next, we found a picnic table that looked like it was set over the top of a camp fire, making it totally unusable. The cost of the picnic table was \$125. And the latest thing was at Fireman's Park. The playground equipment was the latest victim. Someone used a magic marker to write foul language and pictures all over everything. The cost of the equipment was \$1,500.

We should be proud of our three parks, but when you see the damage caused by our own kids or kids from out of town (or both), it's hard to smile. We have people in Byron that are afraid to let their kids play in the parks because of what goes on there. Maybe some of us ought to take a look and see what's going on.

Everything in the parks is paid for with taxpayer money. Instead of replacing equipment all of the time because of vandalism, it would be much easier to do maintenance and add new things to the parks to make them even more enjoyable.

So **PLEASE**, if you happen to see anything suspicious going on in **OUR** parks, call the Sheriff's Department right away so the vandalism can be stopped!

David Chupp, Park Committee Chairman



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
CLASS OF 2007**