

TOWN OF BERGEN

Newsletter

From the Desk of Town Supervisor,
Ernie Haywood....

We have spent much of the late winter and early spring working on several grants that will help the Town achieve improvements in many areas. Thanks to the efforts of Honorable Pulcini, the Town was awarded a Justice Court grant award of \$9,950 to construct a small conference within the courtroom gallery. Thompson Builds was the low bidder and we have held the pre-construction meeting. We anticipate the work to be started in late summer. The project should only take a few weeks and disruption to staff and the public should be minimal.

The Town received a grant from the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) for completion of an invasive species survey at Drew's Nature Center. The Town also received a \$10,000 grant from the Genesee Soil and Water Conservation District to complete trail restoration and install bridges to address uneven ground at Drews. We will also build stone barriers to discourage motorized vehicles, construct signage and plant trees. BOCES students will complete the work with the assistance and

guidance of the highway crew. The Town is currently working on the DEC and Army Corp. of Engineering permits required to do the work.

We have submitted a Records-Management grant. The grant funds would pay for the re-organization and protection of Town records per New York State guidelines. It would also help us set up a system of records management for the future. We should know the results of that application by mid-summer.

We submitted a NY Plays grant application for the installation of a playground at Robins Brook Park. Many of you helped us in the process by completing the park survey we conducted earlier this year. We hope to know by August if our grant application has been approved. Additionally, work continues to complete our new park restrooms. We anticipate having them operational by next spring.

In February, the Town adopted a change to our Town Code that expands the property tax exemption granted to low-income seniors (age 65 and older). The Code had not been updated in many years and the



June, July, & August 2026

Bergen Town Supervisor
Ernie Haywood
494-1121 ext. 122

Deputy Supervisor
Belinda Grant

Town Board
Karen Ely
Mark Swanson
Cindy Anderson

Town Clerk
Teresa Robinson
494-1121 ext. 120

Highway Superintendent
Joel Pocock
494-1121 ext.300

Assessor Rhonda Saulsbury
494-1121 ext. 100

Planning/Zoning Gerry Wood
(585) 490-4152

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and the exemption level was unreasonably low. The new code allows low-income seniors with a maximum income of \$32,799.99 to receive a sliding scale exemption of up to 65% of their assessment. The over-all impact on the Town's tax base will be minimal, however the impact to our low-income seniors will be meaningful. Anyone who believes they qualify should contact Town Assessor Rhonda Saulsbury as soon as possible.

We have also spent considerable time working on our Town Code. We are nearing completion of changes to the park code and will be calling a public hearing in the near future to share the proposed changes. There is a public hearing scheduled for June 16 on a proposed zoning change that would allow Comfort Care to be an accessory use to existing religious institutions.

We held public hearings on May 19th and then enacted nine-month moratoriums on the application, approval and installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems, Data

Centers and Cryptocurrency Facilities. The purpose of the moratoriums is to give the Town Board time to draft appropriate regulations before any of these types of facilities locate within our Town. Nine months seems to be a reasonable amount of time to accomplish this and hold the required public hearings. It could be that we finish sooner than the nine months or it could be that we need a little longer than nine months and extend the moratoriums. In either case, prior to the adoption of new regulations, the Town will publicize the proposals and hold public hearings.

Finally, I attended the Genesee County Economic Development Council's annual partnership luncheon where I was pleased to see Charlie Cook named partner of the year. Congratulations!

As you enjoy these summer months, please take time to visit Robins Brook Park and Drews Nature Center. They are wonderful Town facilities for families to enjoy!

From the Desk of County Legislator Christian Yunker.....

Genesee County is moving into the summer months with steady momentum and a continued focus on strengthening essential services, advancing major infrastructure projects, and planning responsibly for long-term growth. State-level budget pressures, workforce needs, and rising community expectations continue to shape an agenda for us to keep us aligned with our goals.

At the state level, we remain actively engaged in Albany as New York moves forward with shifting SNAP administrative costs to counties beginning in the last quarter of 2026. This change would add roughly \$400,000 annually to Genesee County's budget, a significant im-

pact that we continue to push back on through direct advocacy.

Countywide Water System – Major Summer Milestones

Progress on the Countywide Water System remains one of our most important achievements. All pumps for Phase 2 have now been delivered or ordered, keeping construction at the Scottsville, North Road, Riga, and Morgan Road pump stations on track for completion this summer.

Phase 3 continues to advance through engineering, permitting, and long-range planning with Arcadis, including evaluation of 5-, 10-, and



and 25-year system needs. This year's water-source change evaluation and pipe-rig study, conducted with the City of Batavia, will provide critical data on lead line samples and the safe mixing of different water sources. We have identified our redundant water sources and continue to work on the basis of design. We have made great progress and will continue to push this important initiative.

Federal partners remain essential to our progress. Engineering is underway on the \$10 million VA water storage tank, a major federal investment that reduces the financial burden on local users. We've requested another \$5 million for this coming year for another water storage tank. We continue to advocate aggressively for additional federal support, including meetings in Washington, D.C. with Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congresswoman Tenney, and the Senate and House Energy & Water Subcommittees. Whenever we have an opportunity to speak with any of the key partners, they certainly know what we are advocating for. We also plan to use PILOT and Host Community agreements from many of these large scale projects that are either under construction or potentially constructed to help fund this \$250+ million project. This will be key to keep the burden of this investment off the backs of taxpayers and water users.

Capital Projects & County Operations

Several capital and operational priorities in the 2026 budget are moving forward as part of our broader modernization efforts:

- **Engine House renovation** is complete and the

Public Defender and much of his staff has moved in. The team did a fantastic job with this renovation to make it functional yet keep much of its history and charm as a historic firehouse.

- **Holland Land Office Museum** engineering and renovation planning underway.
- **New Airport support building** progressing through design and preparation.
- **Animal Shelter renovation** advancing to improve capacity and care. We hired the new Housing Officer role to strengthen the county's housing stock and work with communities to create "shovel ready" development sites. We are excited that our Deputy DPW Commissioner Paul Osborn has accepted the role. He will be fantastic in this position and we look forward to putting him to work on these initiatives. A Human Services Campus study is also underway to guide future consolidation and more efficient use of county-owned facilities. We continue to support volunteer fire and EMS agencies through the Fire Advisory Board and are expanding shared-service opportunities with the City, towns, and villages. This includes collaboration on grant writing, code enforcement, assessment services, and targeted chargebacks, all aimed at reducing costs and improving service delivery across the county. Sales tax revenue remains strong, hoping we can deploy some of these resources to our Communities. We continue to put up resources and resistance to new solar development. As always, I'm happy to answer questions, provide updates, or assist with any county matter. Enjoy the summer season.

From the Desk of Highway Superintendent, Joel Pocock.....

The Town of Bergen Highway Department has several road improvement projects scheduled for this summer's construction season.

Sackett Road is tentatively scheduled to begin on June 15th. This project will include ditching, road recycling, and paving. Starting at West Sweden

Road, approximately 1.5 miles will be completed this year.

Chip seal projects are planned for:

- Old State Road
- Gilbert Road
- School Road

Crack sealing projects will be completed on:

- Peachy Road
- Buffalo Street Extension

Culvert replacements.

- Swamp Rd.
- Sackett Rd.

Other paving projects include:

- Dublin Road, from the railroad crossing to the Byron town line, in conjunction with the Town of Byron paving their section of Cockram Road
- Paving repairs on Peachy Road

Please be patient with our road crews as we perform these important repairs and maintenance projects to improve the safety and condition of our town roads.

Thank you for your cooperation and support throughout the construction season.

Sharing the Road with Farm & Construction Vehicles:

- This equipment is heavy, making it hard to slow down & stop.
- They will cross the centerline while turning.
- They have large blind spots.
- Don't assume they can see you.
- Leave space between your vehicle and the equipment..

Construction Work Zones:

- Slow Down
- Move Over—give workers and highways vehicles plenty of room.
- Maintain Space—leave space between your vehicle and the one ahead..
- Drop the Distractions—avoid cell phone use.

From the Desk of Town Clerk, Teresa Robinson....

Dog Licenses

•Who needs a license?

All dogs **4 months or older** legally need to be registered (licensed).

•Where to register?

License your dogs with the **Town Clerk**.

•What to bring? You must bring an **updated rabies vaccination certificate and certificate of spay and neuter.**

The Genesee County Health Department
2026 Rabies Immunization Clinic, August
13, 2026, 4:00—6:30 pm. Genesee County
Fairgrounds, 5056 East Main St., Batavia
NY. For more information call (585) 344-
2580 ext. 5555



2026 Free Fishing Days Schedule

Free Fishing Days for 2026.
Free fishing days offer
residents and non-residents who are 16 and
older to fish without a freshwater fishing li-
cense (*Kids under 16 can always fish for
free!)

•June 27-28

•September 26 and November 11 (Veterans Day)

Town Clerk Hours:

Monday – Thursday
8 am – 4:30 pm
Closed from 12:00
pm – 12:30 pm

Friday 8 am—11 am

Evening hours
available by
appointment

494-1121 ext. 120

The Clerks' office
will be closed for the
following Holidays:

Friday, July 3rd

From the Desk of Town Historian,

Tom Tiefel....

The 250th Anniversary of America also known as the Semi-quincentennial will be celebrated on July 4, 2026, marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

Festivities will include various events and activities organized by the United States Semi-quincentennial Commission on Celebrating America's 250th Birthday. Well, the Harford Livery Museum will be no exception. This year, we are putting in our best efforts to partake in the national celebration. Decorations are underway by our staff and an exhibit not only recognizing the founding of our nation, but those Revolutionary War veterans from Bergen who served. This exhibit will be our focal point for the 2026 season. In addition, we will be raffling off a chance to win a limited edition 250th anniversary

Monopoly game which will be drawn on December 1, 2026.

This Saturday, May 30, we'll be participating in Brockport's "Night At The Museums" annual event from 4-8pm, so stop by, say hello, and check out some local history!

We'll be open from 10am-3pm June 13 for the annual Bergen Park Festival.

As always, the historian's office is located at 15 S. Lake Ave in the village of Bergen. If you would like to contact us for any reason, feel free to call 585-494-0080 and we will be happy to assist you! Also, find us on Facebook at Harford Livery Museum.

What makes the history of Bergen amazing to you?
Help celebrate Amazing Bergen by entering your photo in an online Photo Contest!

Look for the QR code at Bergen Park Festival!
(rules, instructions, Tips for Using your Phone for Pics will be accessible via the QR code)

More details to come!

★ **AMAZING AMERICA** ★
AMAZING BERGEN
250


★ *Bergen*

2026

Bergen Park Fest

Hickory Park, Bergen

NEW DAY AND TIME

PARADE DOWN MAIN STREET @ NOON

Friday
JUNE 12TH

Saturday
JUNE 13TH

KIDS ONLY BASKETBALL HORSE TOURNAMENT

*REGISTRATION (UNDER 13) 5:30 PM

*TOURNAMENT 6-8 PM

CHICKEN BBQ 5-7 PM

LIVE MUSIC 5-8 PM

*BLACK CHERRY VODOO

FIREFLY MOBILE BAR 4:30-8 PM

THE SUGAR SHACK 4:30-8 PM

STEELE THE COURT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (AGES 13+)

*REGISTRATION 8 AM

*START TIME 8:30 AM

CAR SHOW 11 AM

FOOD VENDORS & MOBILE BARS 11-9 PM

CRAFT AND ART VENDORS 11-4 PM

BOUNCE HOUSES 12-6PM

DUNK TANK 1-3 PM

GENESEE COUNTRY MUSEUM 1PM

*WALKING ON STILTS

*HISTORICAL GAMES

MAGIC SHOW 2 PM

WATERMELON EATING CONTEST 3 PM

LIVE MUSIC

*DJ 1-3 PM

*KOKO AND SHANE 3-6 PM

*DIAL UP 6:30-9:30 PM

ULTIMATE FIREWORKS DISPLAY 9:30 PM



BBCA

WHERE BERGEN GROWS COMMUNITY





Byron-Bergen Public Library

Library hours

Sunday and
Monday – Closed

Tues. 10-1 and 2-7

Weds. 10-1 and 2-7

Thurs. 10-1 and 2-7

Friday 10-6

Saturday 10-1

The Library has copy /fax / scanning service for a small cost, Spectrum Internet on three computers, Wi-Fi and interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system. You can follow us on Facebook. If you would like to get on our e-mail list – just call us or e-mail your information to byrbgn@nioga.org For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Closed: Saturday June 13th for Bergen Park Festival

Open up new worlds- read new authors, try a new recipe book, or get lost in a movie! Check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org. Libby app has eBooks and downloadable audio books. Hoopla app for eBooks, audio books, video and music are available to you with a valid Library card! Kanopy app has movie and TV series to stream. The Blackstone Unlimited app has audio books only. If you use Audible or any streaming service – check out what the Library has to offer for FREE! Stop in for your Library card!

Library Book Sale will be at the Bergen Park Fest Saturday, June 13th! We have a lot of children and adult books available- many best sellers as well as cook books, biographies, DVDs and audio books to choose from!

The Library will be sponsoring: The Genesee Country Village Movable Museum's "19th Century Games" happening after the parade at noon and "Magical Mayhem" with Cris Johnson at 2pm

The Library is 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 before the end of the school year! You can win prizes for volunteering and get a first look at all the new books, graphic novels and DVDs! Beat the heat in our air-conditioned Library and sign up with a friend to join the fun! If interested please sign up soon!

Summer is coming!! So is the summer reading program- "Unearth a Story @

your Library!" Kick-off will be held Thursday June 18th at 6:00pm with Pre-historic World Reptile Show.

REPCO's show will feature animals that share a connection with the world of the past and REAL fossils! Guests will learn about these amazing, important animals and their ancient counterparts while being able to see and perhaps even feel these reptiles! No sign up beforehand needed just drop by! Make sure to sign up for the summer reading program (where you record your reading through summer and get prizes for doing so) while you're here!!

Why should you join the reading program? The summer reading is set up for children 3 years old and up to read and wins prizes! Having your child read throughout the summer will help keep up their reading skills for school in the fall. Reading to your preschool child will help them master the skills of language at an early age.

If you are not able to make the Kick-off event- stop in any time after June 18th to sign up! Throughout the summer we will be having special story times, science fun, crafts, animal visits, movie days and more. For a complete schedule of events check us out on the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram or stop by to pick up a schedule. Lots of fun activities you won't want to miss!

A Babysitting workshop will be offered on June 19th from 12 to 4pm. The Library will host a Babysitting Course where young boys and girls ages 11 to 15 can become a certified babysitter!

Make sure you bring a drink and a snack. Please sign up by Saturday, June 15th and the cost per student will be \$40.00.

The Library has preschool story time at 10:30am on Fridays starting July 10th and running to August 7th. We will be exploring sound, color, and animals! Join the fun this summer with your young children! There's magic in every book!

Come check out our newest books the web at www.byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org to reserve your copy! We also have a great selection of adult and children's audio books that are great to listen to while you are driving to your vacation destination!

The Library has copy /fax service for a small cost, Computers with Internet and printing, Wi-Fi, and interlibrary loans from any library in the NIOGA Library system. If you can't find it at our Library, please ask or check us out on the web at www.byronbergenpubliclibrary.org! Stop in soon! For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Happy Reading--
Nancy Bailey

Mark Your Calendars.....

Mustard Seed Food Pantry
Bergen United Methodist Church,
27 Lake Ave

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Hours: 2nd Tuesday of the Month 5:00
pm to 8:00 pm and Last Saturday of the
Month 9:00 am to Noon

Donations always appreciated, contact the
BUM office at 585 494-1312 or
office@bergenumc.org



Free Food
Distribution Bergen
Evangelical Pres.
Church; 38 S. Lake Ave, Bergen,
NY. Everyone is welcome to at-
tend all Foodlink Events! June
18th

Notification from NYS DOT - Bridge Closing on Route 19 - June 1st

Beginning on Monday, June 1st, 2026, NYS Route 19 will be closed to all traffic over the Black Creek Overflow (located 2.2 miles North of the NYS Route 33 Intersection.) This closure will facilitate the replacement of the Black Creek Overflow Bridge, with a new integral abutment galvanized steel girder bridge. An offsite detour will be posted to direct motorists around the work zone. Traffic will be routed using NYS Route 33, NYS Route 36, and NYS Route 31. Advance warning signage will be placed on the highway prior to the closure date to alert motorists of the upcoming change in traffic pattern. As part of NYS Bike Route 19, a bicycle detour will also be posted during the closure. The closure is expected to remain in place until late September 2026.