

# Town of Byron NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Number 3 Fall 2006

## From the Supervisor's Desk

### Town of Byron Water District No. 2 Project Information

The Town of Byron anticipates water main installation to commence soon. The majority of the water main will be installed along Byron-Stafford Road. This water main will connect to the county water supply on Richmond Road, to the north and south side of the Hamlet of Byron's existing water main and terminate just north of North Byron Road. The water main will cross the New York State Thruway. Water main will also be installed on side streets such as Freeman Road, Mechanic Street, Walker Corners Road, East Main Road, and a short distance on Warboys Road.

This bulletin explains the upcoming work and whom to contact with your questions while the work is in progress.

#### Where will the main go?

Most of the water main will be installed along the edge of the road, primarily within the public right of way. The remainder will be installed within easements on private property.

#### What is involved in this project?

The main installation work generally consists of four phases as described below:

1. Main line installation
2. Testing
3. Service Installation
4. Final Restoration

The first phase of work is **new main installation**, which includes water main, hydrants, and valves. By the end of each work period, the trench will be backfilled. In paved areas temporary pavement will be installed until the final restoration phase. (This practice also allows settlement to occur before final pavement is placed.)

After an entire section of main is installed, the next phase of work is **testing of the main**, which takes about one week. First, the main will be pressure tested; if any leaks are found, they are corrected. Then, the new main is disinfected and flushed. The last component of the testing phase is sampling and water quality testing by the Department of Health.

Following successful testing, the contractor will return to **install service connections** for homes and businesses.

The **final restoration work** includes pavement restoration and returning lawns to their preconstruction condition. The temporary asphalt will be removed and permanent asphalt installed. Lawn areas will be graded and seeded. If any area fails to grow properly, the contractor will be required to correct the problem.

**What is the duration of this project?**

The Town's contractor, Randsco Pipeline, should begin work in October 2006 and complete work by September 2007. We anticipate that you will be permitted to connect to the water main prior to the spring of 2007.

**How do I hook up for water service?**

The Water Authority's New Services group will send a letter informing you of a sign-up session in early December. They will discuss service size, location and well disposition issues with you.

**Whom should I contact with questions?**

The majority of your questions can be answered by the projects on-site Engineer. He will be present during the daily operations and will be your representative throughout the project.

<b><u>COMPANY</u></b>	<b><u>CONTACT</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>ROLE</u></b>
Clark Patterson Associates	Cory Neefus	520-2428	On-site Engineer
Town of Byron	Richard Glazier	548-7123, ext 14	Supervisor
Water Authority	Nancy Letta	442-2001, ext 226	Service Hook Up, Well Inspection, Meter Set.

We are pleased to announce that our application for a grant from the Governor's Office of Small Cities has been funded for up to \$170,000.00. This money will be available to income eligible property owners to pay for connecting from the new water line to the home. Eligible Water District No. 1 residents who have not connected to the public water supply may also apply for this funding. When the details of this program are available we will have a public meeting to make everyone aware of the program, who will qualify and how to apply.

We wish to thank all of the property owners for their cooperation in granting easements for water line construction where the line will cross their property.

**Affordable Senior Housing**

We have been informed that the application submitted by the Genesee Valley Rural Preservation Council to the N.Y.S. Housing Trust Fund Corp. for assistance to construct affordable housing for seniors was not funded.

The reason given by the Office of Community Development was that the application did not firmly establish that a sufficient number of income-eligible households exist locally that could afford the project rents and could be expected to reside in the proposed facilities. They said further that the number of applications requesting funds far surpassed the resources available.

Jill Alcorn of GVRPC has informed us that she hopes to get additional information that may be helpful as we consider our options.

## 2007 Budget

The budget process for 2007 has begun. The Supervisor is the Budget Officer. After receiving recommendations from the various boards and department heads, the Budget Officer prepares a tentative budget and files it with the Town Clerk by September 30, 2006. The Clerk then presents the tentative Budget to the Town Board no later than October 5, 2006.

The Town Board has set a Special Meeting on October 4, 2006 to work on the budget. If more time is required this could be done at the regular meeting on October 11, 2006. Additional meetings may be scheduled as necessary. A Public Hearing will be held on November 8, 2006, where the preliminary budget will be presented. The final budget may then be adopted, but no later than November 20, 2006. The dates for this process are established by state law.

We don't expect major problems, but we know the Highway Department will have increases in fuel, road oil and asphalt.

## Clerk's Corner

Please be sure to visit the Town of Byron website at [www.byronny.com](http://www.byronny.com) for information and great pictures of our summer Concert in the Park series and the Byron Dig. If anyone has the opportunity to visit the Dig next year I would highly recommend it, and the Clerk's Office to see the picture August 3rd!

My permanent hours will be 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00, Saturday sometimes difficult to get to the and if for any reason you cannot up a more convenient time and I



think you'd find it very fascinating. Stop in at of the Mastodon tooth found at the Dig on

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00-12:00, and closed Thursdays. I know it is Clerk's Office during regular business hours, make it during those times please call me to set would be happy to meet with you!

We will be closed on October 9th in observance of Columbus Day, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day, and November 24th for Thanksgiving.

Just a reminder to hunters, the deadline for acquiring the Deer Management Permits is October 1, 2006. The second draw starts November 1st.

**November 7, 2006**

**General Election**

**6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Please remember to vote! If you are not registered, please stop into the Town Clerk's Office and I will give you a voter registration form.**



## From the Office of the Assessor

In October, eligible homeowners will receive a rebate check from the State of New York for a portion of their school property taxes. The check will be issued by the New York State Tax Department. The amount of the rebate will depend on which school district you are in, and whether you have the basic or enhanced (over 65) STAR exemption. Byron-Bergen school district homeowners will receive \$220.59 for basic STAR, and \$368.39 for enhanced STAR exemptions. Elba school district homeowners will receive \$226.71 for basic STAR and \$378.61 for enhanced STAR exemptions. The rebate amount was based on the 2004 school tax rate. The rebate check will be sent to the record property owner as of March 1, 2006. This program is being administered in Albany, but feel free to call the office if you have any questions and I will try to get an answer.

Remember, assessment information is available on-line at [www.oarsystem.com/ny/geneseecounty](http://www.oarsystem.com/ny/geneseecounty). Please feel free to contact the office at 548-7123 ext. 17. Office hours are Thursday afternoons and Fridays.

Barry Flansburg

Assessor

## Sewer Department

It's been a good year to date from an operation and maintenance standpoint in the Sewer Department. Flushing and cleaning of distribution piping and boxes on a section of treatment area in Central Byron has proved beneficial in maintaining compliance throughout this year. Based on these results, other areas will be addressed as time allows. Electrical and mechanical aspects to many lift and dosing stations within the collection and treatment system have held up fairly well. Standby generator units at each facility and McElver Street lift station has needed some attention to insure backup power sources during power outage situations. With the ability for most of you now to have potable water through Monroe County during these outages, makes our efforts more important than ever that backup transfers and generators operate correctly.

Currently we're just starting preparations to the sewer budget for 2007. Although it is early for predictions at this time, I don't see any significant changes upon us at this time in preparing the budget.

This fall, in north and central Byron, many manholes and collector sewers are planned for cleaning. This practice has been maintained for many years and must continue to reduce or eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and nuisances to residents.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank you for allowing me to serve you, and if you have any issues or concerns, feel free to call the office.

Also, if you live at a residence near lift stations and see or hear high level alarms or lights, this is a situation that may need immediate attention, and you can call at anytime!

Office: Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 548-7123 ext. 12

Cell: 356-7842

Home: 548-7446

Thank you,

Bob Cudney

Sewer Department

## MURDER

**Howard C. Benham of Byron accused of murdering his wife, Florence J. Tout Benham, also of Byron.**

Let's go back to 1892, Howard C. Benham age 22, man about town.

Florence J. Tout age 16, heiress, her father died when she was born leaving a sum of money for her when she turned 21. This money was left in trust with Holden Miller, bank clerk in Batavia. Mr. Miller had done well with the money and had increased it considerably.

Howard C. Benham met Florence at a social in Byron and began courting her to the dislike of her family and friends. In August of 1892 Howard and Florence eloped to Rochester and were married. Soon after Benham applied to the courts to compel her guardian to pay Mrs. Benham \$75 a month, and to pay for the construction of their house in South Byron (\$36,456.56). (Note: the first two houses going south on Route 237 on the right just as you pass under the railroad. The first house belonged to Howard Benham's father Martin Benham and the second place was where Howard and Florence were to live.) By 1893 the Benham family had gained control of Florence's estate.

In 1897 Howard Benham goes into a drug store in Batavia and tells the clerk, a Mr. Sam Elliott, that he wants to kill a dog and purchases prussic acid liquid (prussic acid is a cyanide compound the Nazi's used, also known as cyclone B, a gas to kill thousands in the concentration camps). Soon after, Florence took ill and died. The doctor initially gives the cause of death as heart disease. Florence was buried on the Benham family plot in the Byron Cemetery.

Sam Elliott, the drug clerk, remembered the sale of poison to Howard Benham and reported it to his employer and the authorities. The authorities ordered an autopsy, guards were placed around Florence's grave, and the body was exhumed the next day. The autopsy proved that Florence was poisoned and Howard Benham was arrested.

Florence's family would not allow her body to be reburied with the Benham's. She is buried in the Byron cemetery on the Tout Family plot.

Howard Benham was convicted of murder in the Genesee County Court system, but he appealed and was acquitted. He moved to Ohio but died shortly after. Our records show that he was not buried in Byron.

The full story and court papers can be found in the Byron Museum.



## MISSING



The Byron Cemetery Index is missing. If anyone has it, please return it to Bob Wilson, the Town Historian, as soon as possible. Thank you!

# Gillam-Grant Community Center



The Ghostbuster is BACK! Come and meet some real, live Ghostbusters here at the Gillam-Grant Center on October 12th at 7:30 p.m. We will have video and audio... and meet a true "sensitive". Stop in and be "spooked!"

An Unfortunate Event:

Wednesday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. There will be an Unfortunate Event in the Gillam-Grant Library featuring the adventures of the Baudelaire orphans. We will be celebrating the last book of the series aptly titled, "The End" by Lemony Snicket. There will be Trivia about the books and perhaps YOU will earn the title of Gillam-Grant Lemony Snicket Advisor! The winner will receive a copy of the new book. No registration necessary.

Incredible Mask Making Workshop – October 25th at 7:00 p.m. Come to the Center and make a Very Cool Halloween Mask. All materials are included and are safe for the children to create a mask that is individual per each child's artistic view. Ages 8 and up. Please call to register as seating is limited to 15. 494-1621. This project 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.

Tiny Glover the Storyteller, also Gillam-Grant Community Center Library off National Children's Book Week. All



known as Grampa Teddy, is coming to the on Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m. to kick ages welcome, no registration necessary.

Do Pigs Like Parties or Pancakes? Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30 p.m. to Laura Numeroff story will be here to visit with our children to help celebrate National Children's Book Week. All ages welcome, no registration necessary.

Come to the Gillam-Grant Library on find out! That lovable Pig character from the

Laura Numeroff story will be here to visit with our children to help celebrate National Children's Book Week. All

**SEEKING:** People interested in book discussions with other enthusiastic readers. Currently seeking members to form a Gillam-Grant Book Club for Adults. Please call 494-1621 if interested.

## Byron Cemetery Association

The Byron Cemetery Association has been busy this summer. The newer part of the cemetery has received many new trees purchased with money that was bequeathed to the Association. The Wooton family also installed a flag pole in a landscaped area in memory of their dad. This area was dedicated in a ceremony in July.

The stone work has been completed on the vault area. We thank Fred Johnson for a job well done. It really makes that area very impressive. Our

vault, which has the date of 1918 over the door, consists of two rooms. The back area of the vault can hold up to twelve caskets. The front area is used for equipment. Since our cemetery was established in 1856, it makes us wonder what was done in the days before the vault came to be in 1918. There must have been many winters when burials could not be done.



Ginny Ivison, Byron

Cemetery Association

# Byron-Bergen Library

The "Books: A Treasure" summer reading program was wonderful!! I am very proud of how many children participated in our community!!! We had over 150 children signed up for the reading program this year!! They read over 1,400 books and over 24,500 pages.

We couldn't do it without the support from the community!! Thank you to the following businesses and individuals that helped make the summer special: Ralph and Rosie's, T.D. Repair, H & K Automotive, James S. Sullivan Insurance Agency, Rose Garden Bowl, Chark's Glass & Mirror, Carol's Coiffures, Greg'ry's Bakery, Elite Image Salon, Demo's Truck Sales, Arby's of Brockport, Burger King of Brockport, Lift Bridge Book Shop, McDonald's of Brockport, Wal-Mart of Brockport, Seabreeze Amusement Park, Wendy's of Brockport, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Top's Friendly Markets of LeRoy, and Wegman's Food Market of Brockport.

Thank you to all our junior volunteers that helped run the summer reading program!! They helped keep the library running smoothly during our busy summer hours!

Our book discussion group meets every 2nd Thursday at 7pm to discuss selected books, both fiction and non-fiction. Our next book will be Three Weeks

with my Brother by Nicholas Sparks on September 14th. Stop by the library to reserve your copy.

October 24th at 6:30 is our Spooky story time! Join us for a fun Halloween book, craft

and treat!! This is recommended for children ages 4 and up, but all are welcome.

Our annual Craft Fair will be on November 4th from 9am-3pm at the Bergen Fire Hall. Stop in and see local craft people show their stuff. The Bergen Fire Auxiliary will be serving lunch and there will be a Book

Sale with the Friends of the Library. Come find that unique gift on your holiday list!

Turkey Time will be November 21st at 6:30. Come talk turkey with a story, craft and special snack. Registration is recommended, but not required!

Children's book week is November 15th -19th. Stop in and enjoy a much-loved book with a favorite child, grandchild or special little person. Come in for a raffle ticket and your chance to win prizes!!

Stop in on Wednesday November 22nd for a book or movie until 8pm.

The library will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Friday the 24th and Saturday the 25th. We will reopen on Tuesday November 28th at 10am.

Santa will be visiting us on December 14th at 6:30 for a special story time visit!! Come and enjoy a story and some one on one time with this jolly elf!!

Come check out our newest books: 12 Sharp by Janet Evanovich, Judge & Jury by James Patterson, Angels Fall by Nora Roberts, and Marley and Me by John Grogan. 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 Hallelujah! by Maya Angelou, Coming Out by Danielle Steel, and The Husband by Dean Koontz. 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-Bergen Public Library Board

As you are aware we have begun the automation process in both of our libraries in Bergen - The Byron-Bergen Public Library located within the Bergen Town Hall and our branch library within the Gillam-Grant Community Center. We would like to take this opportunity now to give you a brief update on our progress.

Approximately 10% of the entire collections between the two libraries have been completely barcoded with progress gaining little by little each day.

You may have already begun to see these new barcodes on certain books you have taken from the library. Our goal is to be completely barcoded by the end of 2007.

It's an exciting time now with the libraries in the throes of automation. We are anticipating a smooth transition to our new system while continuing to serve both communities and patrons. Please feel free to contact any member of our Library Board with questions, comments or concerns. As always, we thank you for your patience and commitment to the library community.

Sincerely,

Kristin Gordon

Library Board President

## Byron Fire Department

Volunteers are ALWAYS welcome! Joining the Byron Fire Department does not necessarily mean you need to fight fires (though you are always welcome). There are many other facets that need to be filled to ensure the business runs efficiently.

-We are currently looking for an IT person who would be willing to cover the electronic aspects of the firehall. This person should be computer savvy, able to set up and maintain the computer network, along with creating procedures for backups.

-We are also looking for a web designer to create and maintain a website for the Byron Fire Department.

If interested in helping your community, please contact the Byron Fire Department:

Mondays at 7:00 p.m. at the Byron firehall.

Via email: [byronchief@rochester.rr.com](mailto:byronchief@rochester.rr.com)

Or phone: 548-2206

School is open once again, so be careful and watch for the little ones.



Fall is fast approaching, so it is time to check your smoke alarms and clean your stove pipes.

We will be having a turkey night on November 4, 2006, so bring the family and join in the fun.

Last, but not least, don't forget to set your clocks back.

Sincerely,

Douglas VanSlyke, Chief, Byron Fire Department

# Byron Kiwanis

Help make a difference in our own community -- Byron Kiwanis is part of an international service organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children of our community and the world.

Our club has been active in the community for over 30 years and has sponsored scholarships, community improvements and helped local organizations that serve children. Most recently, we've awarded scholarships to students as well as supporting our local daycare center.

We meet at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the Byron Hotel for dinner and fellowship. If you are interested in seeing what we are all about, please contact President Tim Bushnell at 548-9518, or by email at [timbushnell@byronkiwanis.org](mailto:timbushnell@byronkiwanis.org).

Here are our upcoming Byron Kiwanis events, and we invite you to come join us for fellowship and charity in the community:



Saturday, October 7th - 7 pm - Byron Hotel - Euchre tournament.

Sunday, October 29th - 2 - 4 pm - Byron Firehall - Byron Kiwanis and  
Byron Ladies Auxiliary, Halloween Party!

Saturday, November 4th - 7 pm - Byron Hotel - Euchre tournament.

Sunday, November 12th - 9 am - Noon - Byron Firehall - Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, December 2nd - 7 pm - Byron Hotel - Euchre tournament.

Sunday, December 17th - 9 am - Noon - Byron Firehall - Byron Kiwanis and  
Byron Ladies Auxiliary, Breakfast with Santa!



All the latest information can be found at <http://www.byronkiwanis.org/>

## Byron Historical Society

The Byron Historical Society will hold it's Fall meeting on the first Thursday of October - **NOT** the third Thursday as previously reported.

The Fall meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at 6:00 o'clock p.m at the Byron Presbyterian Church. A delicious meal will be served. The cost is \$7.00 per person. Paid reservations are due by October 1, 2006. Please call Corky Shaw (548-7350) about reservations and membership. Dues are only \$2.00 annually.

A program about the Erie Canal will be presented by Charles Silvernail.

Election of officers will be held at this meeting.

New members are most welcome as are any persons interested in holding an office in the Byron Historical Society.

Come join us.....the people are friendly, the food is always great, and the programs are interesting!



## Park Committee

Here we are approaching autumn. It's been a beautiful, albeit wet summer.

The people of Byron and the surrounding towns have used our parks and, we hope, enjoyed them. Vandalism? Oh yes, but it seems to be gradually getting less and less. Our picnic tables take a beating and some are on the verge of going to picnic table heaven. We would like to thank John Durand who is going to make us six new tables to replace the old ones both at Firemen and Trestle Parks.

The car gate leading from Byron Road to Trestle Park has remained open all summer, and will probably remain so until near snow time. From all reports, the fishing at Trestle Park has been good, and for the nonfisherman we have a nice set of swings and a slide.



We would like to thank Barb Galdun for donating so much of this equipment. We hope to add more trees at Trestle Park, probably next spring, and a pavilion is also in the talking stages. We would like to improve the point of land on the east side of Trestle Pond and perhaps make it a memorial in honor of Gary Shultz and the work he did at the parks. Any input or suggestions from the public on these ideas would be greatly welcomed.

We noticed this summer that many people have pitched in to collect litter in the parks. Thanks to all of you.

Also, we would like your comments on the summer concerts and any other things to do with the parks, and remember, all the people in the Park Committee are volunteers and they put lots of time and effort into our parks.

## Byron Nursery School



The Byron Nursery School is still 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.

## South Byron Fire Department

We are glad to have been able to remodel the front entrance to our facility. This was only accomplished with help from many family memorials and various organizations. The Town helped with the permitting and other various issues.

The upgrades include better lighting, and we would like to rent the hall for a party such as a wedding, anniversary, contact our party 771-0642.



include improved accessibility, improved appearance. If you would like to rent the hall for a party such as a graduation or other function, contact our chairman, Dennis Maid at 771-0642.

# For Your Information...

## *Byron Presbyterian Church Famous Turkey Dinner*

Sunday, October 22, 2006 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Adults: \$7.00

Children: 6-12 \$4.50

Under 6: Free



## *2006 Anti-Rabies Immunization Clinic*

October 19th - LeRoy Village Highway Garage

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

## **Halloween Dance For Genesee County's Individuals With Developmental Disabilities**

On Thursday, October 26, 2006 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Byron Fire Hall. The Byron Fire Department will be hosting one dance per month, dates to be announced. Any questions, call Laura Platt at 548-2245.

## **Heritage Days 2007**

Donna Bobzin and Kris Wiegel are asking the communities of Byron and S. Byron to join us for our first meeting for Heritage Days 2007 on Thursday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Byron Hotel Dining Room. We will be forming committees and looking for help. Anyone that was involved in previous Heritage Days please bring your knowledge. Whether you want to be on a committee or just help, everyone and anyone of all ages are welcome. Please come and join us and bring your thoughts and ideas. Any questions, call Donna 750-3327 or Kris 613-5810.

**THANK YOU!**

A special thanks to everyone who helped search for our dog, Bear, and for his safe return to us. We greatly appreciate it!

Sincerely,  
Tanya Surowy and Brian Gilbert

Anyone who would like to use the Byron Fire Hall for gatherings after funerals please contact Laura Platt at 548-2245.

Halloween is approaching. Please remember to be on the lookout for those ghosts and goblins on Halloween night and drive with caution!



**BYRON SENIOR HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE**

**by Byron Kiwanis**

**PLEASE CIRCLE ANSWER**

1. Are you a Town of Byron resident?    Y    N

2. Do you intend to retire in Byron, NY?    Y    N

3. If available, would you be interested in downsizing-relocating into senior housing in the Town of Byron?    Y    N

4. If available, what would you expect to pay for monthly rent in a senior housing complex?    \$250--\$350--\$450--\$550--\$650 plus utilities

5. What services would you expect in senior housing?

Cable--town water--town sewer--telephone--natural gas--transportation--others  
(please list)

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

**BYRON KIWANIS**

**BOX 5**

**BYRON, NY 14422**

**THANK YOU!**