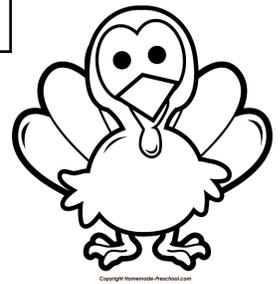




**November 2016**

The office will be closed  
Thursday and Friday,  
November 24th and 25th  
in observance of the  
Thanksgiving Holiday



## Mayor's Message



Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

- *Melody Beattie*

On behalf of the Village Board, our office staff, electricians, and DPW, we wish you a special celebration of thanksgiving with family and friends

*Mayor Anna Marie Barclay*

## From the Desk of the Village Historian

Ralph D. Gillette 1891-1972

Ralph was a life-long Bergenite. His father, George, was prominent in railroading and farming. He also loved politics. Ralph began his work in the insurance business in 1919 and the company was known as Gillette Insurance Agency. It was located on Buffalo Street where Mike's Gym is now located. Ralph and his wife Minna lived in the family home at 48 Rochester Street. They always maintained the exterior of their home perfectly.

I remember Ralph as a very happy man. Many times he said, "Rayme, I knew you before you were born." He entered my father's grocery store (Harts), around the corner from his office, most afternoons to take a few items home for supper. Near Christmas my father had a supply of small trees in the store for those who wished a tree of about 3 feet tall. They were living trees with a water reservoir at the base. Ralph walked into the store and saw the trees. He said, "Rayme, pick a nice tree out for me to take home." So I did, and he went home very happily to share the tree with his wife. They had no children and he was sure the tree would add to their holiday decorations.

He provided the best for his wife. Each month it was my job to collect a penny bank from houses on Rochester Street from our Presbyterian church members. I would appear at their front door and Minna would ask me to step inside while she collected the bank. I enjoyed seeing the newly redecorated living room and dining room. She had worked with a decorator from Sibley's and the results were magnificent, at least from this 12 year old kid's perspective. I had never seen such a lovely decorated home with Waterford chandelier, sterling displayed on the buffet in the dining room, and elegant upholstered furniture in the living room with a Royal Doulton "Balloon Lady," ceramic on a period card table in the corner. In church, they always sat in the same pew, near the front, and people always noted Minna's new hat, coat, or purse. She was a style setter, and that was the way she liked it!

After his wife's death in 1967 the spark was gone from Ralph. He declined rapidly and died in a Rochester nursing home in 1972. He left the community many gifts which carried on after his passing.



## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### Department of Public Works

Please remember that there is no parking on Village streets between 2:00 am and 7:00 am. Your assistance will help our crews in their efforts to keep our roads clean and safe during the winter months.

We will do our best to keep streets and sidewalks safe during snow and ice conditions. If you believe you have an unsafe situation, please contact the office at 494-1513 and we will do our best to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.



### Fall Brush and Leaf Pick-up

Our last scheduled pick-up of brush and leaves will be on:

**Monday, November 28th.**

As a reminder, we will not pick-up leaves that are bagged in plastic bags.

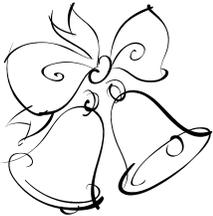


### Holiday Office Closings

November 24th & 25th

December 23rd, 26th, & 30th

and January 2nd



### #BergenProud

Boy Scouts Josh Fleming, Garrett Swinter, Arthur Burke, and Corden Zimmerman with help from Josh Roggow cleaned up the Minnie Creek area on Buffalo Street over a three day period. They collected ten bags of trash from the area!

We are very proud of their initiative and caring about the environment and community!

## A TOUCHING TRIBUTE

On October 24<sup>th</sup> Jack Robinson unexpectedly passed away. I want to take a moment to remember him.

Jack worked for the Village of Bergen and I was hired to train under him and assume his mantle when he retired. He mentored me for over eight years. He taught me how to run equipment, drive truck, maintain our rag tag fleet (it surely was at that time), install and maintain drainage, restore lawns, plow snow, etc.

He was a genuine and kind human being. Jack was a patient teacher (and boy did he need patience!). He was always quick with a zinger and ready to laugh. He taught me the importance of slowing down. He was an amazing operator. I was blessed to be able to work alongside of him and learn some of his secrets. He had an uncanny memory for where things were underground. We are now in the process of mapping everything with GPS, Jack was our original GPS unit. He could fix just about anything.

But Jack was more than just an excellent operator and employee. He was compassionate, generous (one time I was sick and out of sick time, he went to the office to see if he could transfer some of his sick time to me.). He was humble but confident. Jack was truly a family man and rooted in his community. He cared about the village residents. He was a true human being.

It has been my great fortune to have known and been mentored by Jack. He has helped to mold me into who I am today. It is with sorrow and deepest respect that I say, "Farewell, my friend. Your lessons live on in me and I will do my best to pay them forward."

*Chris Fay*

### Road Closure

On Friday, December 2nd Rochester Street will be closed between Lake Avenue (Rt. 19) and Buffalo Road (Rt.33) for the Annual Village Tree Lighting Ceremony in Ward Park.

The entire street will be closed from 6:15pm to 6:45pm. After which just the area at the end by Buffalo Road where Ward Park is located will remain closed until 8:00pm.

Thank You and Please Join Us for The Tree Lighting Ceremony!!!