

## Mayor's Message

Fall has definitely arrived in Bergen; wind is blowing, leaves are falling, preparation for winter has begun.

As you walk along the village path through Hartland Park, I am sure you have noticed much activity in and around the former water building. Grant applications for an all season pavilion in Hickory Park were not successful, but we did receive funding through the efforts of Senator Ranzenhofer to refurbish the building for meeting and event purposes. A meeting room will be available for large groups, and an event space with a rustic décor is planned for family and group parties, dances, dinners, etc; celebrations from kid's birthday parties to formal receptions. We are looking forward to an open house to introduce everyone to the completed project.

Upgrades to the waste water treatment plant are nearing completion as well; phosphorus treatment, UV treatment, installation of a screw press, eventually composting, and the completion of a pole barn have been in the works this summer.

Our entire crew has been working together on these projects and much more around the village.

*Mayor Anna Marie Barclay*

Be sure to reserve a tree to decorate for the Tree Lighting. Consider attending a board meeting, receiving board minutes by email, joining a committee, and join in our goals to enhance the quality of life in Bergen. Have a Happy and Safe Halloween!

## From the Desk of the Village Historian



### GUY F. MONTGOMERY 1875-1941

A thresher was a machine that helped in the harvesting of crops like wheat, straw, barley and even chopped corn. A thresher was also a man who worked with the machine to assist in the harvesting process.

A lonely spot on the North side, at the top of the hill, in Mt. Rest Cemetery is the grave of Guy Montgomery. I remember my mother saying, as we passed the grave, "Poor guy, he was a thresher and helped to harvest on father's farm each year. I waited on the table for mother as the threshers ate. Oh, how they ate on pot roast, potatoes, vegetables, cabbage salad, and of course, freshly made breads and pies. Guy was tall, but skinny man. He was not a handsome man, but could he eat." In the 1920's and '30's Mother would wait on the table of threshers to assist her mother. The threshers would come to the back door and wash-up in large tubs of water set out for them. The men were covered with dust from the fields. Then they came into the kitchen and sat at the kitchen table for their hearty noon dinner. Sometimes they could not finish the harvest in a day, so a supper also had to be furnished for the hungry men. If a second day of work was needed they were housed overnight in a room above the garage. This was typical of the life of threshers. Threshers included other farmers and their hired hands. After the harvest was finished for the season the men resumed their jobs on the different farms. Bergen threshers stayed and worked within our area. The farmer would pay or barter for their services, but also worked along with the crew.

Lawrence Welch along with his hired man, Harry, worked and provided a threshing machine. Chris Dilcher was another farmer in Bergen who provided another machine. In Churchville, the Libeck family had a machine, and in Byron, the Euler and Sharp families had machines. Each stayed in their area and helped their neighbors harvest. It was a hard life, but a life of satisfaction in the results.

Welch's hired man was a parolee. The officer checking on Harry would come and ask Welch questions about Harry. Welch would speak bad of Harry so his parole would be extended, thus providing cheap labor for another period of time. Harry finally left the Welch farm and probably headed to better living conditions somewhere. It is not known.

I thank Dick Sands, Theresa and Willard Pengelly, and Don Hart for their input on this story, and to my mother for her verbalizing stories as we past familiar names on headstones in the cemeteries many years ago.

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

### Change your Clocks/ Change your Batteries

Don't forget that at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6th, you will need to turn your clocks back one hour, marking the end of Daylight Saving Time.

A fire can double in size every 30 seconds. The sound of the alarm will give you and your family those few extra seconds to get out and stay out of your home.

The Office of the Fire Marshal also recommends that one of the simplest things you can do to protect your family is changing the batteries in your smoke alarms/detectors and carbon monoxide detectors at the same time.

**Any elderly or disabled residents who need assistance changing their smoke alarm batteries can call the office for this free service at (585) 494-1513**

**When your smoke alarms/detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order – they save lives!**  
Ken Kuter Building Inspector/Fire Marshal

### We are now on Twitter!

Follow us to receive timely information from the Village, also like us on Facebook and our notifications will appear in your newsfeed!  
Or email us at [vob@villageofbergen.com](mailto:vob@villageofbergen.com) to join our email list.



Follow us:  
[@villageofbergen](https://www.facebook.com/villageofbergen)

#BergenProud



### #BergenProud

John F. "Jack" Robinson  
1942-2016

Served the village community as a dedicated and valued employee for 21 years.

## Save the Date



Our Village Tree Lighting will take place Friday, December 2nd. We still have 6 trees available for decorating. Please call our office today to reserve a tree for your organization!

### 2016 Electronics Collections by SunKing

November 5, 2016 9:30am to 1:30pm  
Sponsored by Senator Patrick Gallivan  
Rush-Henrietta High School  
Henrietta, 1799 Lehigh Station Road  
November 12, 2016 9:30am-1:30pm  
Sponsored by Buffalo Bills  
Ralph Wilson Stadium  
Orchard Park, 1 Bills Drive

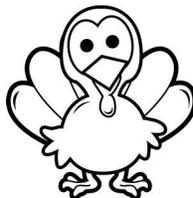
### Turkey Party

Saturday, November 19th

Doors open at 6pm for dinner  
Raffle and door prizes 7-9pm

Open to the public  
Free refreshments from 7-8pm

Sponsored by  
American Legion Post No. 575  
Bergen, NY



### Bergen Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 3rd, 2016  
6:00pm  
Bergen First Presbyterian Church  
38 Lake Avenue  
Bergen, NY

Join us for an evening of Christmas music performed by members of the community. Young and old are welcome to attend. Special Family Friendly seating available this year, bring all your little ones! Cookies, milk, and coca to follow. Questions about attending or performing? Contact Jocelyn Rebisz 494-6031