



**March  
2018**



**Mayor's Message**

Its official, Spring arrived in the village on March 20<sup>th</sup>; let's hope the weather catches up soon! Congratulations and thank you from the entire community to Gary Mielke and Carl Pocock for their amazing 50 years of dedicated service as volunteer firemen in the Bergen Fire department. They will be recognized at the Fireman's Banquet on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

By summer you will be seeing an electric car in the village; its purpose will be for bank and supply runs, meetings, etc. instead of using gasoline fueled village trucks. The purchase of the vehicle, along with the conversion of village owned buildings to LED lighting, and a charging station, is being made possible through a NYSEERDA grant the village has received. The village has been designated a "Clean Energy Community" by NYSEERDA after the completion of several initiatives which made the grant possible.

On behalf of Kevin Donovan, Emily VanEenwyk, and myself, thank you to everyone who came out and supported us by voting. We are dedicated to working the next four years to continue the work to a better Bergen.

*Wishing everyone a Happy Spring and a Happy Easter!!* *Mayor Anna Marie Barclay*



Our pavilion is handicapped accessible and has restrooms available

Sage Pavilion is located in the Village of Bergen at 62 South Lake Avenue, in Hartland Park, a beautiful seven acres of land which is home to Bergen's disc golf course. Our all-season pavilion is the perfect place to host your next event.

\$150 for Village of Bergen residents  
\$200 for non-residents

- Rental hours are 10am to 10pm
- 80 chairs are available
- 12 tables are available (72" x 30")
- Refrigerator available

- Rental costs are payable when making your reservation. Payment must be received to confirm your reservation date.
- We also require a cleaning/damage deposit, when you pick up the key, which will be returned upon a satisfactory inspection of the facility after your event.

| Occupancy         | Event Room | Meeting Room | Total |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| Tables and Chairs | 70         | 40           | 110   |
| Chairs Only       | 150        | 85           | 235   |
| Standing Room     | 210        | 120          | 330   |

We would be happy to give you a tour of the pavilion before you book your event. Please call the Village office at (585)494-1513 to schedule a showing.

## From the Desk of the Village Historian, Ray MacConnell

Customs change, but not the hurt!

My maternal grandmother passed away in January of 1958. I was very close to her, and I felt a great loss for the first time in my life. She was the one and only grandparent I ever knew. We shared so many secrets, and she was a great listener. She had lived with us for about 3 years. I was 11 years old.

That evening mom cleaned the house from top to bottom. Dad and my brother moved most of the furniture out of the living room into the dining room. Why was this happening?, I asked. In those days the casket was brought to the home of the deceased for what I found out to be "Calling Hours." Our house was now the stage for paying homage to my grandmother, and to the wonderful, long life she lived.

I remember bowls and platters of food brought in from the entire community to support us during the 3 days that followed. What a wonderful custom that was! It happens less and less as the years pass. It was a reminder that your community cared and supported our family. The kitchen counters overflowed with pies and breads, say nothing about the cookies. Our refrigerator also bulged with casseroles.

Then came a knock at the front door. The undertaker and casket had arrived. We kids were shoved into the play room and given instructions not to come out until we were told. After all was in place, I saw the living room as I never had seen it before. There were numerous bouquets of flowers and the casket holding my grandmother. Red roses were on top of the casket. A lovely arrangement was placed outside the front door to signify that this was a time for respect. The arrangement froze within an hour, but remained for the duration as a symbol.

We kids were then whisked away to stay with my cousins. We never saw my grandma again. As I left by the back door, I said to myself, over and over, "Goodbye Grandma, my best friend." The next 2 days were filled with sledding, sandwiches, and popcorn in front of the TV, anything to keep us busy and occupied.

Monday was her funeral, again at home. I attended school, but it was a lost day. I spent it looking at the clock and wondering. The pain of death never gets easier. Calling hours and funerals very seldom happen in private homes today. I still think back on how wonderful it was, my grandmother had finally come home, as she wished in her days in the nursing home. She was home!

I returned from school to a very empty living room. My mom and her sisters were in the kitchen sorting flowers into wrapping paper. I was to deliver them to grandma's friends. It turned out to be a very happy job. The fresh flowers were gladly welcomed by the ladies. My solemn face turned into a smiley face as I reacted to the smiles I encountered. I even helped a couple of the ladies place the stems into vases. Out of sadness and confusion came a better sense of community.

## Save the Date

### Important Sewer Account Message

Just a reminder that sewer arrears must be paid by **April 30th** to avoid being sent to Genesee County to be put on the Village Taxes.

If you are unsure of your balance, please don't hesitate to contact our office, we would be happy to assist you.

Village of Bergen 's  
Annual Bulk Pickup Day

Saturday, May 5th

Items should be placed at the curb  
no later than 6:00am

**NO TIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

### Scrap Metal Drive

to benefit our parks and community projects

Sponsored by the Park Committee

April 28th to May 4th

Drop your items off at the Village Quonset

Hut located behind the Sage Pavilion at

62 South Lake Avenue

Questions can be directed to Gary Z at the  
Village Office.



The office will be closed Friday,  
March 30th.

Brush Pickup Begins April 30th. Look for  
more details in next month's newsletter!