



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

THE BERGEN RAILROAD DEPOT THAT WAS by Ray MacConnell, Village Historian



I had discovered my freedom to ride my bicycle around the village in about 1960 at the age of 13. Up and down the streets I rode. One day, I decided to explore the abandoned train depot in the large parking lot off Buffalo Street just in back of the stores on the west side of route 19.

I remembered the story my grandmother told me about her daughter's body arriving at the depot from the Mayo Clinic. Elizabeth had died from cancer. She had the disease in her arm as a result of a fall. She would not allow them to remove the arm. She had attended Oberlin College studying piano. The cancer spread and finally took her life. The depot in Bergen marked the final stop of her trip home. As I rode closer to the station I could imagine her casket being removed from a train and taken to grandma's home for services. That was in 1929.

I dropped my bike and walked to a window, cupping my hands to see inside the depot. Every wall, ceiling, and floor was covered in wood, walnut, I believed. There were pew-like seats attached to the walls all around the large waiting room. It must have been a grand looking room in its day. I don't remember any of the other areas inside.

The exterior of the station was constructed of brick which had been painted a medium gray. I don't remember any graphics or signage on the building. They must have been taken down years before. The station was "torn down" in 1966. Urban renewal was a new "thing". It was out with the old, and in with the new - right or wrong. I was in wonder of the many people who had stepped off and on the many trains that stopped in Bergen. Service to Bergen was begun in 1837. The depot was built around the turn of the century. There were many years of happy greetings exchanged, the sad goodbye's, too. The last passenger train to stop in Bergen was in 1944.

Some in Bergen thought the station was moved to a different location, but that has been proven wrong. Being constructed of brick would have made any move very difficult. I will always connect the mystery of the grand old station to my memories told to me by my grandma.



**Village Emergency  
Contact Numbers**  
Electric 353-0981  
Sewer 353-3659



The office will be closed Monday,  
May 27th in honor of  
Memorial Day

Our 2019 Community Garden has a limited number of 4' x 10' plots available. The cost is \$25 per plot. If you are interested, please contact the Village Office.



**Help Wanted!**



We are currently looking for an alternate member to serve on our Planning Board. Training is provided!

**The Annual Bulk Pickup Day has been discontinued!**

Our refuse service contract includes the pickup of one bulk item per week. Instead of having to hang on to items until Spring, go ahead and put a bulk item out any week you would like!

**Save the Date**



**Community  
Yard  
Sale**

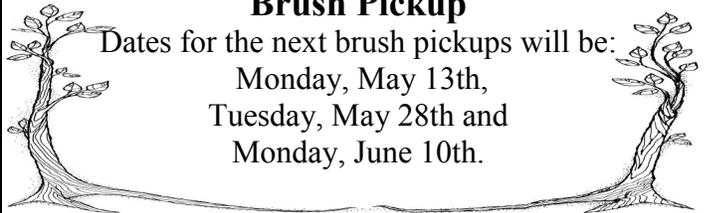
Saturday, August 17th

Anyone interested in helping for an hour or two, please contact the Village Office.

**Brush Pickup**

Dates for the next brush pickups will be:

Monday, May 13th,  
Tuesday, May 28th and  
Monday, June 10th.



Bergen Memorial Day Parade  
Monday, May 27th  
9:30am



Please come out and honor our fallen heroes!



Thursdays 4pm to 7pm  
June 13th thru September 26th  
Hickory Park

Sponsored by Village of Bergen

**The 30th Annual Bergen Park Festival  
June 8th**

Volunteers Needed!  
Please call the Village office!

**Friday afternoon/evening** setup  
**Saturday** assisting with the games and at the Main Tent, help with the chicken barbecue, and evening tear down.  
**Sunday 7:30am** cleanup of the park.

**2019 Summer Recreation  
Program**

July 15th through August 9th  
Monday through Friday



**The 4th Annual Chuckfest  
Disc Golf Tournament**

Saturday, July 20th  
in Hartland Park

The tournament is open to all skill levels.