



**October
2020**

Mayor's Message

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well as we prepare for fall in the village.

A sincere thank you to Vickie Almquist for her service as Village Trustee; her insight and perspective enhanced our discussion, and her sense of humor added to our meetings. Vickie will continue to serve the community as a member of the Village Park Committee, Tree Board, Bergen Business and Civic Association, and Triangle Club.

With the budget cuts due to the loss of county sales tax revenue sharing, our general budget needed to be readjusted to accommodate the decrease. We have worked hard to maintain village services and continue as many projects as possible. It was necessary to move village street projects and sidewalk work from this year to next. The village budget cycle does not correspond to the town budget and therefore is impacted differently; revenue sharing overlaps. The overall amount from the county is distributed between the towns and villages using equalized taxable values. The final 2020 payment from the county of \$113,589 will be made at the end of October bringing in 14.8% less than planned, the 2021 payments will be made monthly starting with the first payment at the end of January and will total \$199,528 which is 28.5% less than planned. . These amounts do not bring us back to where we would like to be but are a great boost from where we thought we would be after the legislature voted to rescind the shared sales tax resolution.

It was a pleasure to interview four amazing and community minded folks for positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals; Tim Quirk and Sheila Butler have attended their first meeting as new members of the board. Thank you to everyone who submitted their names to serve.

Updating the village zoning law has been an interesting process to participate in; the committee is doing a great job incorporating the comprehensive plan and the input of discussions held at meetings. The draft document is planned to be presented to the village board in January. Your participation is always welcome.

The application I submitted to Tree City was awarded with a \$1000 grant to be used for tree plantings in the spring. These will be specimen trees planted in Ward (Silver Maple), Hickory (Sugar Maple), and Carpenter Parks (River Birch and Oak). The plantings will be done in conjunction with the annual spring Community Action Day and Arbor Day celebration with the school.

Our Main Street is coming into its own as work continues to renovate and restore our historic buildings. The block of 10 and 12 S Lake has been the focus of the work this past month. Façade work at Morgans, and renovations at 25-27 N Lake will progress over the next weeks. It is truly rewarding to see the years of work to secure the Main Street Grant bringing new life to our downtown.

The E-Waste event held on September 26 brought in over 3 ton of materials! It was a great day working with Vickie Almquist, Todd Cargill, David and Debra Catalino, and Lyn Wilkins to make the event a success. Thank you!!

Is anyone interested in becoming part of a committee to bring a small market to the village? Many folks have been asking to have a market here, and I have been working on making that happen. Please email me if you would like to be included in the discussion.

Enjoy a safe and Happy Halloween!!

Mayor Anna Marie Barclay

Sidewalk parking is becoming a problem in the village; walkers are having to walk into the street to avoid these vehicles, This is creating a safety hazard. New York Vehicle and Traffic Law prohibits parking on the sidewalks; vehicles will be tagged with a warning to be towed if there is a second violation.



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



Village Information

Office Closings

Wednesday, November 11th
In honor of Veteran's Day

Thursday and Friday,
November 26th and 27th
In celebration of Thanksgiving

Hometown Heroes Banner Program



The Bergen Triangle Club, Ladies Auxiliary of the Sackett-Merrill-White American Legion, and the Friends of Bergen are proud to announce the Hometown Heroes Banner Program. The program serves as a tribute to recognize service men and women from Bergen who are currently serving our country in a branch of the military. Information and application forms are on the village website.

Halloween

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses; we are asking that you be respectful and responsible in keeping everyone safe.

Families that choose to go trick-or-treating this year are being advised to go only with their household family group. Families should avoid traditional trick-or-treating where candy is being handed out at the door, and where you cannot safely socially distance.

Trick-or-treaters are also being advised not to pick candy from a bowl or take candy directly from someone's hands. Taking candy from someone else's candy bag is also discouraged.

If there is crowding in front of a particular house, trick-or-treaters are advised to skip that house. The department of health stresses that people need to stay socially distanced from those you don't live with.

New York State is also reminding trick-or-treaters that they must wear face coverings or cloth masks with their costumes, saying that most Halloween masks won't be sufficient to meet department of health guidelines. The department of health recommends seeing if you can incorporate your face covering into your costume.

Save the Date

Village Tree

Lighting Display

Monday, November 30th



A limited number of trees are available for decoration. This year we are using artificial trees. Please contact the Village office to reserve yours today!

Matthew Weit, a Byron Bergen graduate, will be available as a health care consultant, to discuss Medicare choices available to members of our community. Matt will be at the village office on Fridays 11/6 and 11/20 from 9 – 3pm, and at the Byron-Bergen Library on Friday 11/13 from 1-4pm. 857-2683

Change your Clocks/ Change your Batteries

Don't forget that at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 1st, you will need to turn your clocks back one hour, marking the end of Daylight Saving Time. Time to change your smoke alarm batteries!

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!

When your smoke alarms/detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order – they save lives!

Letters to Santa

Since Santa may be unable to have children sit on his lap and share their wishes with him, we would like to encourage them to write letters. Please put your letters to Santa in the mailbox at the Byron-Bergen Public Library or the Village of Bergen Office between November 23rd and December 12th to ensure that he receives them in time. Also be sure to include your name and return address. We know he loves to write back!

