



**March  
2023**

## Mayor's Message

The spring equinox is upon us marking the transition from winter to spring. The extended daylight and sunny days are a welcome sight. I look forward to seeing and talking to the residents as I walk and run throughout the village.

Work is progressing on the remodeling of the Hickory Park restrooms project. These ADA compliant restrooms will be a great addition to the park. They are scheduled to be open in late spring for the public's use. We have also scheduled May 15-17<sup>th</sup> for the entire park walking trail starting at the Parkview Dr. entrance to be milled and paved. Thanks to the Bergen Town Highway Dept. for the assistance they are providing with this project. We have also been awarded funding from Genesee County in the amount of \$5,000.00 to apply towards a grant writer. A parks grant application will be submitted by Clark-Patterson-Lee on the village's behalf to the NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). Another grant application that the village has drafted and submitted is the Preserve New York Grant which would pay up to 80% of a consultant's fees in preparing and submitting the documentation to the State Historical Preservation Society for the purpose of extending the historical district from not only downtown but to include the many homes and commercial buildings throughout the village which meet the historical criteria. The properties that meet the criteria would be entitled to take advantage of State and Federal Tax credits regarding repairs to property. The real goal is to preserve the history and the architecture of our village's homes for future generations.

Our large industrial factory formerly Bonduelle has changed ownership. The new name is NORTERA which operates 13 food processing plants in Canada and the US. Their headquarters are located in Brossard, Quebec. Locally they employ 50 regular employees and 180 seasonal workers at the Bergen facility. Welcome to our village, I look forward to a great working relationship.

Until next month be safe and stay healthy. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at [jchimino@villageofbergen.com](mailto:jchimino@villageofbergen.com) or (585)703-2875.

*Mayor Joseph M. Chimino*

## From the Desk of the Village Historian, Vicky Truax



This article appeared in the Daily News on November 4, 1920:

Joseph Beyer has arrived from Clifton and expects to open his new blacksmith shop on Saturday. The shop has an electric forge and blower and electric lights. Mr. Beyer expects to do horse-shoeing, tire fitting, wagon, and general repair work.

Today we step back in time. Our story is of long-time Bergen resident Bernard Beyer. Barney as we knew him. His father was Joseph Beyer and the article above explains how Barney began his career in the blacksmith business. Barney was born in 1916 and died in 2008. Barney was an army veteran and served from 1942-1945 in WWII. His job in the army was driving a tank. After returning from the service, Barney married Ruth Verwiere in 1946 and had two daughters. He began his full-time job working for the railroad. He repaired the railroad tracks from Buffalo to Rochester. He worked 45 years for the railroad, hardly ever missing a day of work. He retired from the railroad in 1978. While working for the railroad, he also had two part-time jobs. He bartended at the Bergen Restaurant & Bowling Alleys, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sunday's. Some remember it as "Charlie the Greeks". It is now the home of the village offices. He worked his blacksmith shop on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturday's. In the early 1950's Barney and his father-in-law built the family home on Church Street with the garage being the blacksmith shop. He didn't shoe horses but sharpened farmers bean knives, welded and built iron handrails for people in Bergen. There are still some of these handrails in use today. It was not unusual to hear some clanging and banging, coming from his shop. Barney continued with his blacksmith shop well into his 90's. Today we remember Barney Beyer.



### Village Emergency Contact Numbers

Electric 353-0981  
Sewer 353-3659



# Village Meetings

All meetings are open to the public

### Board of Trustees

Second Wednesday of the month  
6:30pm

### Planning Board

Third Wednesday of the month  
7pm  
Agenda items must be submitted no later than ten days prior to the meeting

## 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.

Our 2023 Community Garden has a limited number of 4'x10' plots available. The cost is \$25 per plot. If you are interested, please contact the Village Office.



## Save the Date

### Easter Lunch & Hunt

Saturday, April 1st

11:30am to 12:45pm  
at Sage Pavilion

62 South Lake Avenue

Meet and greet with the bunny  
Lunch available for purchase

1pm at Hickory Park  
Easter Egg Hunt

Presented by the BBCA



**Burn Ban In Effect**

## Reminder! Annual Burning Ban in effect until May 14<sup>th</sup>

All residential brush burning is prohibited in smaller communities during the state's historically high fire-risk period from **March 16 through May 14th.**

Several factors enable wildfires to start easily and spread quickly at this time, including the lack of green vegetation, abundance of available fuels such as dry grass and leaves, warm temperatures and wind.

## Village Park Committee

The Park Committee wants your input! We are currently working on revising our 5-year Parks Plan and want to hear from you.

Please join us on Wednesday, April 5th at 6:30pm in the Village Hall to share your thoughts on our Village Parks.

### Village Parks Survey



The Village Park Committee is asking residents to take the Village Parks Survey so they can determine what upgrades to focus on in the remaining Village Parks.

This is different than the Hickory Park Survey.

### Brush Pickup Begins April 3rd

Brush and bagged leaves will be picked up each Monday, weather permitting.

The Village Office will be closed April 7th for Good Friday

