



**December
2024**

Mayor's Message

Seasons Greetings!

The annual Village Tree Lighting Ceremony that took place on December 9th was once again a huge success. Many thanks to those who organized and participated in this festival. Events like this are what small town USA is all about. Our tree and park committee met on December 4th to discuss the return of the farmers market and summer activities to be held in the park in the ensuing year. The details of these activities will be discussed in future newsletters. On a sadder note, the Saint Brigid Parish has received a decree from the Buffalo Diocese to be closed and to be merged into Our Lady of Mercy Parish, LeRoy NY and Saint Brigid church to be extinct thereby. A Saint Brigid core group has presented an appeal package to the Buffalo Diocese to have the decree reversed. I hope they are successful in this endeavor and are successful in keeping alive the history of this parish which was established in 1871. To lose Saint Brigid church would not only be a loss to the parishioners but to the entire community. All our church parishes regardless of denomination remain a driving force in enhancing lives and strengthening relationships within our community.

On behalf of the entire village staff, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at jchimino@villageofbergen.com or (585)703-2875.

Mayor Joseph M. Chimino

From the Desk of the Village Historian, Vicky Truax



Today's story is of long-time resident Donald Coleman. Don was born on 11/3/1949 and passed away on 8/23/2019. Don grew up in Minetto, NY. After high school he attended West Virginia Wesleyan college because he wanted to get away from the snow. At college, Don studied Sociology, Psychology and Old Testament majors. He wanted to be a police officer at the time. While at college, he met his wife, Debra. Don graduated college and he and Deb were married, on 7/15/1972. Deb transferred to Roberts Wesleyan and Don went to work with his father selling electric baseboard heat. Shortly after, they found Bergen and they knew they had found their forever hometown. They lived on Munger Street and raised their four daughters.

Don joined the fire department and rescue squad. The family also found the Bergen United Methodist Church where Don wore several hats, from youth group leader to board member to ticket seller at the chicken barbecues. Don had grown up as an independent thinker who bragged that he had been thrown out of everything he joined starting with kindergarten. He bonded with folks who found themselves in a tough situation. He respected all people, no matter what was going on in their lives.

Don became coroner for Genesee County and served from 1992 – 2019. It takes a special person to be coroner. He was honored to serve the people of his community. He is remembered for his professionalism and kindness. He was very empathetic and could bring caring and humor into difficult situations. So many of Don's colleagues came together to help after Barry Miller died, and then when Don was sick.

His youngest daughter Sandy now lives in the family homestead and followed in her dad's footsteps. She is a medic and firefighter here in Bergen. December seemed a fitting month to run a story on such a giving man. Bergen is a better place because of Don Coleman.



Village Emergency Contact Numbers

Electric 353-0981
Sewer 353-3659



These numbers do not receive text messages

Village Board of Trustees

Second Wednesday of the month
6:30pm
All meetings are open to the public

Save the Date

Holiday Office Closings

Tuesday and Wednesday,
December 24th and 25th
In celebration of Christmas

Tuesday and Wednesday,
December 31st and January 1st



Refuse Service **will not** be delayed for Christmas or New Year's Day

Pickups will be on
Tuesday, December 24th and
Tuesday, December 31st
as usual.



Mustard Seed Food Pantry
Bergen United Methodist Church, 27 South Lake Avenue

All are welcome at the Mustard Seed Food Pantry!

Open the 2nd Tuesday and LAST Thursday every month, all year.

Upcoming dates:

Jan 9: 5pm -8pm	Jan 25: 9am - noon
Feb 13: 5pm -8pm	Feb 22: 9am - noon
Mar 13: 5pm-8pm	Mar 29: 9am - noon
Apr 10: 5pm - 8pm	Apr 26: 9am - noon
May 8: 5pm - 8pm	May 31: 9am -noon
Jun 12: 5pm - 8pm	Jun 28: 9am -noon

Monday, January 6th our DPW will be around to pick up Christmas trees only. Brush and leaf pickup has been completed for the season.

Please place bare trees parallel to the road in the right-of-way for pickup.



Thermal Infrared Imaging

Thermal infrared imaging has become a valuable tool in performing energy audits in residential and commercial applications. We are again offering a **free infrared assessment on your home**. The assessment, complete with color photos and helpful information show areas of heat loss. If you are interested please **contact the Village Office**.



Department of Public Works

Please remember that there is no parking on Village streets between 2:00am and 7:00am and no parking across the sidewalks at any time. Your assistance will help our crews in their efforts to keep our roads clean and safe during the winter months. Vehicles that remain parked on the street between these hours will be towed at the owner's expense.

We will do our best to keep streets and sidewalks safe during snow and ice conditions. If you believe you have an unsafe situation, please contact the office at 494-1513 and we will do our best to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

Property owners and snow removal contractors should be aware that shoveling or plowing snow from private property onto or across public roads is illegal because it can present a serious traffic hazard to motorists.

Customers must keep the approach to their mailboxes clear of obstructions to allow safe access for delivery. If USPS employees are impeded in reaching a mail receptacle, the postmaster may withdraw delivery service.

On-street parking on Lake Avenue is limited to 2 hours at all times and there is no overnight parking allowed.