



Mayor's Message

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays in the rear-view mirror our thoughts can begin to think about warmer days which lie ahead. I am pleased to announce that the village has received a grant from Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council (GO-Art) and we will host three concerts in Hickory Park for the community's enjoyment. The dates of the concerts are being finalized. We anticipate one in July-August-September.

On January 3rd Village Trustee Emily Marble resigned her position on the village board. I cannot thank Emily enough for all her years of dedicated service not only in the boardroom but also in her commitment to heading up the summer recreation program for the youth of Bergen to enjoy. On behalf of the entire Village, we wish you and your family the very best.

The 2024-2025 village budget process has begun. With our current contracts for refuse pickup and septic tank pumping due to expire in the next few months, the village is accepting bids for these services. These are just two examples of the many components that have a significant impact on village budgets. The village is also awaiting bid specifications for substation equipment so competitive bidding of such equipment can commence. Between the General-Sewer-and Electric budgets there are many line items to address the needs of our residents. It is the responsibility of the Village Board of Trustees to see that these needs are met when adopting budgets for the ensuing fiscal year.

In closing I again ask that you be mindful of not parking on the streets overnight and during the day during snow events so our crew can safely plow the roads. Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated. On a lighter note, Punxsutawney Phil-that Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Weather Prognosticator Extraordinaire will emerge from his burrow under cloudy skies on February 2 and hopefully not see his shadow, indicating an early spring. If you can't trust Phil, who can you trust? We can only hope!!!

Until next month stay healthy and be safe. 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

Last month's story was of the past and present mayors. By error, I didn't include words from Tom LeSage. This is from Tom's daughter, Emilie LeSage Moss. "Tom was very excited when he won his bid for mayor in 2002. He had previously run in 1994 and 1998. As being born and raised in Bergen, he had a lot of pride in the village and had an open-door policy."



Now onto January's story. Today we recognize Marian Thornell Partridge. She was born in 1928 and will be 96 years young this July. Marian grew up on a farm on Batavia Byron Rd. Marian and her sister, Helen, were their only children. Their father said that Marian and Helen were their hired hands. Marian went to South Byron School and graduated high school in 1946. After high school, Marian received a full scholarship to the University of Rochester to become a nurse. She lasted two months. She was homesick and during that time, one of her teachers at the U of R talked about a patient that had died and how it would have been a good learning experience for Marian to observe this dead man. Marian was upset with the lack of compassion for this man, and that he had passed away. Marian left the U of R and returned home. She worked at Sleights's bookstore in Batavia.

Returning home to the Thornell family farm, Marian met her husband, Dick as his brother, Lewis worked on the family farm. When the next school year came around, (1947), Marian's father told her that she should pack her bags and go to school so that she didn't end up an old maid like her Aunt Florence and cousin Pauline. That was the push that she needed.

Marian Thornell Partridge, continued on page 2



Village Emergency Contact Numbers

Electric 353-0981
Sewer 353-3659



These numbers do not receive text messages

Save the Date

Residential Refuse Collection

Refuse Service **will not** be delayed for President's Day!
Pickup will be **Tuesday, February 20th**



Village Elections



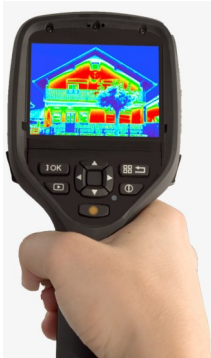
An election for three Village Board member seats, one for a two year term to replace Emily Marble who has stepped down, and two for four year terms will be held

Tuesday, March 19th from 12pm - 9pm.

Individuals interested in running can receive information at www.elections.ny.gov . Please be advised that the Village Office is not responsible to answer questions, give advice or documents to candidates.

Applications for absentee ballots may be requested from the Village Administrator by phone, email to vob@villageofbergen.com, or at the Village Office.

Last Call! 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** .

Marian Thornell Partridge, continued from page 1

Marian went to Buffalo State College for four years. She majored in Home Economics and graduated in 1951 with a bachelor's degree. Meanwhile, Dick had joined the Air Force. During that time Dick and Marian became engaged. They were married in 1952. In October of 1954, the young couple moved to their forever home on Rochester Street here in the village. In early January of 1955, their first child, Bruce, was born. In 1957, their second child, Jan, was born. Marian began her career teaching Home Economics in Elba. She taught full time for three years. After her children were born, she was a substitute teacher in Elba and Byron-Bergen. She became full time in the early 1960's, and taught 7th and 8th grade Home Economics, at Byron-Bergen until her retirement in 1983. She taught cooking, sewing, babysitting and family relations. Today we know that as Family and Consumer Science. (FACS)

Marian and Dick's life in the village was story-book sweet with great neighbors. Austin and Gladys Morley (owner of Morley Motors), Monica and Morris Cunningham (Monica was the town clerk), Don and Helen Schaffer (Don was the principal at the Bergen Elementary school), and George and Josephine Beedham (George was the highway superintendent for Bergen and they were also my grandparents).

I asked Marian if there was a particular story that she remembered from teaching. She said that while substitute teaching in Elba, she told the class their lesson for the day. Well, several girls from the class had another idea for the lesson. After hearing their idea, Marian hesitated and declared, "No we will stick with the lesson I have planned." A pretty, little blonde girl said that if you don't let us do the lesson that we want to do then we will um, um call you by your first name. How times have changed with students today.

Marian has been active on many committees and boards. To name a few, the Republican committee, the planning board (almost 30 years), the Triangle Club, and many committees for the Methodist Church.

What a heartwarming day I had spending time with Marian. She is just as sweet as I remember her as my 7th and 8th grade Home Economics teacher. Marian starts every day and ends every day the same way. She reads her Daily Devotionals. We could all learn a lot from Marian Partridge.

**The family farm later became Lewis and Helen (Marian's sister) Partridge's farm. It is still owned by the Partridge family.