



**March  
2024**

## Mayor's Message

Spring is upon us as of March 19<sup>th</sup> and the spring flowers already in bloom are sure indicators that old man winter though he was very gentle to us this winter looks to be in the rear-view mirror. The annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Bergen Business and Civic Association will be held at Hickory Park on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm. This is always well attended so plan on bringing the children out for a good time.

I am happy to report that Friends of Bergen Parks have received donations from corporate and residential donors enabling us to purchase 8 memorial benches to be placed in Hickory Park in time for this year's annual Park Day celebration which is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. A sincere thank you for your generosity.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> the Village of Bergen has scheduled two public hearings for permissive referendum to begin at 6:00pm at the village office. The purpose of the permissive referendum is to acquire bonds for long term financing of a Digger Derrick truck for the electric department and the other for substation replacement/upgrades. A mailing will be sent to all the residents explaining these two permissive referendums in detail. We will also be holding two public hearings on May 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00pm to discuss a small land purchase on Gibson Place and another for sewer rates. Information for these hearings will be forthcoming in the mailing previously mentioned.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm the 2024-2025 budget hearing is scheduled at the village office.

In closing I would like to thank Trustee Paul Robinson for his four-year tenure on the board. Paul decided not to seek re-election. His many years of municipal employment were a huge asset while serving our village.

In closing I wish you all a Happy Easter Holiday. Be safe, be 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



Today's story is about long-time resident, Gilbert W. Blue. Many of us knew him as "Gib". Gib was born in Bergen on December 3, 1924. He was the oldest child having three younger sisters. He was the fifth generation from Scotland. He grew up on the farm on the corner of Apple Tree Ave. and Lake St. (near the Artistic Motel). There was an apple orchard which was east of the property and ran all the way to Rte. 33A. This farm included the property where Gerber Collision stands, part of Liberty Pumps land, along with the land where 490 is in Bergen. The farm covered 81 acres.

Gib went to the Bergen School on Rochester Street where he began kindergarten and graduated from the same school building. He graduated in January of his senior year, along with seven other young men, so they could enter the military. He wanted to join the Air Force, but because he was color-blind, he wasn't eligible. Instead, he joined the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a light machine gunner and squad leader. He was shot twice during the war, once in the arm and the other in his upper thigh. After his first injury, he spent Christmas in a hospital in Paris. He was honorably discharged and decorated with a Purple Heart medal, WWII Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal with one bronze battle star, and the American Campaign Medal.

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**Village Emergency Contact Numbers**

Electric 353-0981  
Sewer 353-3659



These numbers do not receive text messages

# Village Meetings

All meetings are open to the public

## Save the Date

### Concert in the Park Series



The Village is happy to announce the return of Concerts in the Park! There are three concerts scheduled in Hickory Park all at 6:30pm.

June 20th Rebel's Posse  
July 31st Something Else  
August 19th Blue Sky

### Board of Trustees

Second Wednesday of the month  
6:30pm

### Planning Board

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

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm  
Agenda items must be submitted no later than ten days prior to the meeting



### Brush Pickup Begins April 8th

Brush and paper bagged leaves will be picked up each Monday, weather permitting, and continuing into November

Over the next few months or so, our Electric Linemen will be out around the Village gathering GPS information for all of our utility infrastructure. If you see them, give them a wave and a friendly hello!



### Tri-County Rural Outreach Food Pantry

The former North Bergen Food Pantry has relocated to the Bergen United Methodist Church at 27 South Lake Avenue and opened on February 24th. This vital community mission reaches rural people experiencing food insecurity and provides them with pantry staples, canned goods, and fresh and frozen food.

The Food Distribution Schedule each month:  
The LAST SATURDAY 9am to Noon and SECOND THURSDAY 5pm to 8pm.

### Foodlink

Free Food Distribution every 3rd Thursday at 4pm at Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 38 South Lake Avenue. Please bring a cart or wagon for collecting and carrying your food items to your car. Everyone is welcome!

March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20

### "Gib" continued from page 1.

After the service Gib went to Cornell University. At Cornell, his intention was to be a large animal veterinarian, but because of his service injury he wasn't capable. He didn't make it one semester at Cornell, when his mother died, and he returned to the family farm to help with his three younger sisters. His father died and the family farm was sold in part to NY State for 490. Gib had married Jean Luttrell and they had three children, two daughters and a son. They moved to 66 S. Lake St. where he lived out most of his life.

Gib was the Bergen Village Clerk Treasurer and the Town Justice from 1954 - 1986. He had just left his job with Curtis Brothers Farms. He had always worked two jobs. No one ever ran against him for town justice. This speaks volumes about his character and dedication to his title. The Village clerk's office began where the library now stands. Eventually the office moved across from Ralph & Rosies and shared the space with Leon Katzen. (Bergen's attorney) This is currently the building where Brette Ashley Wilcox has her business. From here the office moved to Buffalo Street (Mike's Gym). Some of Gib's deputy clerks included, but not limited to, Bev Crosier, Mary Shuler, Sharon Lehmann and Mary Sackett. In 1986 Gib retired at 62 years old as he was Tier One status and was encouraged to retire.

Gib was fair, kind and well respected and a staple of Bergen. Most Friday nights you would find him and his family at the Rose Garden for dinner. Occasionally they would travel to the Red Osier for Gib's favorite creamed cod on toast. After his wife passed away, Gib spent many mornings at the Bergen Farm Market with his buddies, Dick Partridge and George Constatine.

On an ending note, Gib officiated the wedding of Joe and Maria Chimino and in 1961 Gib won the best beard for the Bicentennial in Bergen.