



**November  
2024**

## Mayor's Message

Awesome is the word that comes to mind when describing the Byron-Bergen girls varsity soccer team in achieving the ultimate goal this season by winning the section five title and going on to win the NYS Public High School Athletic Association Class C championship. This being the first state title in Byron-Bergen girls' soccer program history. Thanks to the parents, coaches, and fans for all the support shown to these young ladies who are exceptional athletes. Well done lady bees you will forever be known as the BBCS team that won it all in 2024

The annual Village Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The event is being held on Rochester Street in front of the Post Office. Bring the kids out to meet and greet Santa and Mrs. Claus and members of the Bergen Fire Department. Hands-on crafts for the children, performances by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school band, and the BBCS Singing Silhouettes will make for a special evening. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies and help us usher in the holiday season. Hope to see you there!!!

Brush pickup for the season has ended, barring windstorms. We will continue with paper bag leaf pickup as needed. Also, it is that time of year that I ask you to be mindful of parking on village streets. Overnight parking is not allowed by local law, but I ask you to avoid parking on the streets during the daytime during snow events so that our employees can plow the streets in a safe manner. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. Until next month, Be Safe Be Healthy.

*Mayor Joseph M. Chimino*

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.

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

Today's story is about the Mojo Hut which was housed at the Presbyterian Church in the village.

In 1965 the young people were rebelling. The Vietnam War was going on. The pastor at the Presbyterian Church was Dave Broad and he was something of a rebel in politics and civil affairs. Dave challenged all people, but especially the youth, to think and then define the problems and do something about them instead of just sitting around complaining.

So, this is what the youth did. In a letter to the Session of the church, they wrote, "We the members of the Youth Fellowship feel that there is a need for a place for village teenagers to meet. We would like to use the Service Building of our church every other Friday night. Since there are no other accommodations for the village teenagers, this would be a community service." Much to the kid's surprise, the Session agreed. A board was formed. The Presbyterian members were Lenore Wilcox, Vickie Almquist, Bruce Miller, Daryl Swartz, Steven Almquist, and Bill Blue. Ken Hay was from the Methodist Church and Dennis Sapienza, represented the Catholics. As far as can be determined, Larry Crosby was the only adult brave enough to help them by being on the board.

The name of the place was the Mojo Hut. Bill Blue came up with that name. The first meeting was April 15, 1965. There was a pool table, ping pong table and a phonograph player. Gingham cloths decorated the card tables. Pop and snacks were available.

It was a success far beyond their imagination. People broke the rules, including some of the board members. The cleanup got harder and harder and the Mojo Hut lasted until the end of summer.

After asking some locals that attended, this is what they remembered.

Dennis McCartney – His family grocery store closed at 9 pm. He remembers running home, showering, and running to the Hut. There were a lot of kids there. The band was playing, and kids were dancing. There was a line at the pool table, waiting their turn to be the next champions. The older guys were racing their cars and doing burn outs on Lake St. The 50's and 60's were a great time to grow up in.

Steve Almquist was a junior in high school. The Mojo Hut name sounded cool, and it had an island theme to it. Most Fridays they had local bands come in and play. There was a cover charge of \$1.00 and this paid the band. Some Fridays it was a packed house, and after a while, we had kids from other school districts coming.

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### Village Emergency Contact Numbers

Electric 353-0981  
Sewer 353-3659



These numbers do not receive text messages

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Denny Miller – Denny lived almost next door to the church. He remembers some older kids buying beer and leaving it in the bushes out front.

Kathy Fodge Schaeffer – Catholics and Presbyterians did not mingle back then. As a Catholic, I was not allowed to have anything to do with the Presbyterian Church per Dad.

Marsha Blue Hoskins – I remember the fun we had with our friends. She thought the reason the Hut came to an end was someone from the church drove by and saw kids coming out carrying 12 packs of beer. All good things must come to an end.

## Save the Date



### Village Tree Lighting and Santa's Block Party

Monday, December 9th at 6:30pm in Zuber Park

### Holiday Office Closings

Thursday and Friday,  
November 28th and 29th  
In celebration of Thanksgiving

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



Tuesday and Wednesday,  
December 31st and January 1st  
In celebration of New Year's



Band members, Mark Pask - tall guy on guitar, Randy Blanchard - drums, Sabin Brown on the tambourine, Jim Reynolds - guitar and Danny Ray far right on the guitar.



### Bergen Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 7th, 2024  
6:00pm

Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
38 South Lake Avenue

Join us for an evening of Christmas music performed by members of the community.

Young and old are welcome to attend.  
Family friendly, bring all your little ones!

Cookies, milk, and cocoa to follow.  
Need a ride? Call 494-1251

Calling all musicians- please share your talent with our community!

Questions about attending or performing?  
Contact Jocelyn Rebisz, 494-6031



The kids sitting on stage were Cheryl Johnson, John Casper, and Bo Ivison. If you didn't know that this picture was from 1965, you would think that the two young men on the right were looking at their phones.

Thanks to Tally Almquist for the valuable article she wrote for the 200<sup>th</sup> year of the Presbyterian church.

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

Pickups will be on  
Tuesday, November 26th,  
Tuesday, December 24th and  
Tuesday, December 31st  
as usual.

