



April 2025

Mayor's Message

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Easter Sunday as I shared with my family. To be outside and to see mother nature coming alive with buds on the trees is a sure sign that spring has sprung. I am so looking forward to seeing the flower boxes, American flags and Hometown Hero Military banners on display in our village. I want to thank the Bergen Business and Civic Association for once again sponsoring the annual Easter egg hunt on April 12th which was very well attended. Thanks to BBKA for all you do throughout the year for the entire community. Our new park pavilion has been ordered with an approximate delivery date of 26 weeks. This pavilion will replace the rear pavilion in Hickory Park. Our electric crew, with assistance from the Village of Churchville, will be installing underground electric infrastructure in the park as part of the overall project. Thanks to the VOC for assisting with mutual aid. The park restrooms are now open for the season. I highly encourage you to take a walk through the park to see the overall improvements we have made for our residents' benefit. The Bergen Tree and Park committee continue to organize the Bergen Harvest Market which is scheduled to open on July 1. This farmers market will be held weekly on Tuesdays from 3:00pm-6:00pm with an end date of September 30th. Our hope is that residents will support this venture and take advantage of the many products that will be offered for sale by numerous vendors. More details of the farm market will follow in future newsletters. If my next newsletter does not reach you before Memorial Day, I ask that you might save the date for the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 26th at 9:00am. This parade starts on South Lake Ave. and goes to Hickory Park where a memorial service is held. Thanks to the American Legion for organizing this annual event. Until next month be safe, be healthy!

Last but surely not least, I want to wish all of the mothers a very Happy Mother's Day! *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 or (585)703-2875.

From the Desk of the Village Historian, Vicky Truax

Today's story highlights the legacy of Community Dry Cleaners, formerly located at 26 North Lake Avenue in Bergen, adjacent to the railroad tracks. The building now houses MHL Performance. Historical records trace the origins of the dry cleaning business back to the 1930s.

Community Dry Cleaners was owned and operated by Anthony Forti and his brother, both natives of LeRoy. The Forti brothers managed this Bergen location as well as another dry cleaners on Main Street in LeRoy for over 50 years. To gain further insight into the business, I reached out to Diane Donnelly, whose mother, Magdalen Hunt, was employed at the Bergen location from the early 1950s until the mid-1980s. Magdalen worked under the Forti brothers until 1980, at which point Mike and Jane Roggow Macaluso Seen assumed operations. Initially, they leased both the Bergen and LeRoy locations for a year, before officially purchasing the businesses in 1981. In addition to the two original locations, they established a third dry cleaning facility at the ANG site in Churchville.

The business offered a wide range of services, including wedding gown restoration, preservation, and storage, as well as cleaning and preserving suede and leather items. Pickup and delivery services were also available. Magdalen Hunt was especially skilled in alterations, a service that was highly valued by customers.

Jane recalls the work as demanding, often consisting of long twelve-hour days, six or more days a week, and particularly challenging during the hot summer months. The Macaluso Seen family owned the business until 1987. Diane fondly remembers her mother occasionally receiving phone calls on Saturday evenings from customers in urgent need of their garments. Magdalen would often respond by going to the cleaners, unlocking the building, and retrieving the necessary items herself.

One memorable incident occurred in 1983 during the installation of sewer lines in the village. As Magdalen was returning to work after her lunch break, she accidentally fell into a mud hole. Fortunately, Roy Hill witnessed the event and came to her aid, safely helping her out.

Following the closure of Community Dry Cleaners, the building returned to the Forti family in 1987 and remained under their ownership until 1993. It was later purchased by Randy Mays, who converted it into Lynx Machine Shop and constructed an addition at the rear of the building, nearest the railroad tracks.

In 2007, Kim Wannike operated her business, MPM Management, from the location and also sold vehicles there. In 2015, the property was acquired by MHL Performance, which continues to operate today, specializing in auto parts, tires, and other trending automotive products.

Special thanks to Diane Donnelly, Jane Roggow Seen, and Randy Mays for their contributions and assistance in preserving and sharing this piece of Bergen's history.



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

Board of Trustees: 6:30pm March 12th

Planning Board: 7pm March 19th

Zoning Board of Appeals: 7pm March 27th

Agenda items must be submitted no later than ten
days prior to the meeting

Save the Date



Brush Pickup Began April 7th

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



Foodlink
NOURISHING LIVES

Bergen Evangelical Church
38 South Lake Avenue
Thursdays at 4pm

May 15, and June 26

This is an outdoor walk-through food distribution.
Please bring a cart or wagon to gather your food.



The office will be closed
Monday, May 26th
in honor of
Memorial Day



Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 26th

Watch our Facebook page and see our
May Newsletter for more information

The 34th Annual Bergen Park Festival

Saturday, June 14th

Come out and enjoy the day in Hickory Park!



2025 Summer Concert Series Hickory Park 6pm

Wednesday, June 25th Atlas
Wednesday, July 16th Something Else
Wednesday, July 30th Blue Sky
Wednesday, August 20th The Cummings Family



Burn Ban In Effect

Reminder! Annual Burning Ban in effect until May 14th

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.



Bergen Harvest Market

Hickory Park
Tuesdays 3-6pm
July 1st through September 30th

Vegetables, fruits, flowers, fresh baked goods, meat,
eggs, maple syrup, honey and much more