



## Mayor's Message

I hope this newsletter finds you all well as we battle what old man winter has, to date, thrown at us. The above average snowfall and below normal temperatures are tough to deal with but cheer up as the first day of spring is 25 days away from my writing this newsletter.

I have contacted the DOT to complain about the potholes on Route 19 in the village. You may have seen on the news the shortage of road salt is impacting many municipalities. Currently our village is in very good shape with our supply of salt which we use to treat the streets for your safe travel. I remind you to refrain from parking on the streets and blocking sidewalks during snow events so our village crew can do their jobs in a safe and timely manner.

The entrance into Hickory Park off route 19 will now have a new name and number which is 1 Hickory Way. We needed an address for the park so we could submit paperwork to the state for a farmers' market which is slated to begin in July. This also furnishes the county 911 system with an address for the park.

We are awaiting information from vendors about the procurement of a new pavilion to replace the back pavilion. As stated in last month's newsletter, a park grant that the village received is being utilized in the funding of this project.

We await the delivery of electric equipment which will be installed in our substation upgrade. Site work is scheduled to begin this spring.

Tentative budgets for fiscal years 2025-2026 were accepted by the Village Board at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. A public hearing is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm at the village office. The Board will vote on it later that evening.

The village planning and the zoning board of appeals are both in need of an alternate member. If you are a village resident and are interested in serving your community on one of these committees, please contact me at (585)703-2875 or call the village office at 494-1513 for details.

In closing, a huge shoutout to our Village of Bergen Fire Department for all your service to the community. We are so blessed for your commitment and sacrifice. When I hear that whistle blow at all hours of the night, in sub zero weather, you are there responding, doing what is needed as needed. You truly are the crown jewel of Bergen and on behalf of the entire community, we cannot thank each and every one of you enough. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

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 life of Mary Sardou. Mary (Marchioli) Sardou was born in Fairport in August of 1927. After graduating high school, Mary worked at the grocery store, A & P, as a cashier. That is where she met her husband, Pierson (Doc) Sardou. Doc, as we knew him, became a regular customer at the A & P. In 1949, they became engaged and married in May of 1950. They opened their first bowling center in 1951 in Rochester, but shortly after opening, the center was destroyed by fire. In 1954, the Sardou's learned of a roadhouse restaurant for sale in Bergen. They purchased the business from Hazel & Ernie Leyson who were the original owners since 1924. For one month Doc and Mary commuted from Fairport to Bergen. After that, they moved into the small apartment, which is now the back of the dining room. In 1953 and 1956 respectively, Tom and George were born, and the family became four. 1957 was a big year for the Rose Garden as Doc and Mary added the eight bowling lanes and joined the BPAA. (Rochester Bowling Proprietors Association). They are still members today. The family moved upstairs above the bowling lanes to a much larger living space.

While the restaurant business continued to grow, Doc cooked, and Mary bartended. Mary was very friendly and personable to her patrons. She was well loved. Later in the evening, it wasn't uncommon to see both Mary and Doc behind the bar, taking care of business. Life was busy as the young couple now ran a restaurant and a bowling center. They became a popular couple in Bergen, and both bowled in leagues at their establishment. In 1957-58, the Sardou's bought the house next door (South) where the Leyson's had lived. In the early 60's, the Sardou's put in a gas station in the south parking lot next to the bowling center. The station didn't last long as Route 490 was built, and the traffic flow was not the same. In 1967, Mary's beloved husband "Doc" died of a heart attack. In the blink of an eye, life changed dramatically. At 13 years old, Tom, being the oldest son, stepped in and learned the ropes of the business. George, being a couple years younger, helped in the kitchen. Mary learned quickly how to operate the bowling lanes and to repair them. She would often go behind the machines to reset a pin or fix a malfunction. Finally in 1993, she stopped climbing in the bowling machines at the young age of 66. *Continued on page 2...*



### 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

### Notice of Public Hearing

Public Hearings will be held for:

Local Law #1 of 2025 regarding the appointment of alternate members of the Planning Board and their roles.

Local Law #2 of 2025 regarding the appointment of alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and their roles.

The hearing swill be held in the Board Room at the Village of Bergen Offices at 6:00pm and 6:15pm respectively on Wednesday, March 12th. The Local Laws are available at the Village Office for inspection by any interested person during regular office hours.

*Mary Sardou Continued from page 1...* The name of the restaurant, "The Viking Valhalla" name, came about when the Sardou's remodeled the dining room with paneling. "Viking" was stamped on the back of the paneling. In 1994, Mary was named "Proprietor of the year", by the Rochester Bowling Proprietors Association and a story was printed in the Democrat & Chronicle. In 2007, George moved back to Bergen from California and Mary was very content in her life, as both of her sons were living close by. In 2017, she was the Grand Marshall in the Bergen Park Days parade. In 2024, the Rose Garden celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> year in business and were presented the New York State Historic Business Preservation award with Mary at the helm, 65 of those 70 years.

Mary was a woman of integrity, and hard work never scared her. She was strikingly beautiful and fashionable, but down to earth. In June of 2019, Mary passed away. Bergen isn't the same. I was lucky to call her friend.

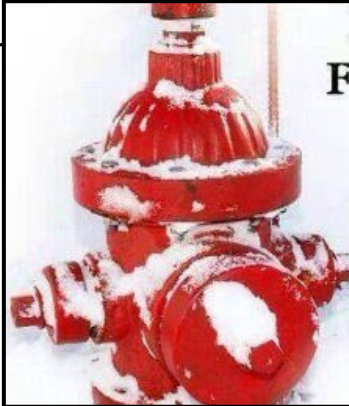


Bergen Evangelical Church  
38 South Lake Avenue  
Thursdays at 4pm

March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 26

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

### Please Clear Your FIRE HYDRANTS



Emergency Personnel  
Need Your Assistance

Please Shovel a 3 Foot Area  
Around All Fire Hydrants

### 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.