



**October
2025**

Mayor's Message

I hope you all are enjoying the changing of the season from summer to fall and the beautiful foliage of the leaves as mother nature readies us for the winter ahead.

I recently attended the New York Municipal Power Agency (NYMPA) semi-annual conference. NYMPA supplies our supplemental power over and above our hydro allocation and oversees 34 other municipal systems in the state. They informed the member systems that an increase from 4.9 to 6.7 cents per KWH took effect as of October 1st. I also attended the Municipal Electric Utilities Association (MEUA) annual meeting and was informed that the MEUA executive board as well as the New York Association of Public Power (NYAPP) had reached an agreement with the New York Power Authority for an increase in rates of our preference power that would take effect in April 2026. Both of these boards felt, after many hours of meetings, that the rate increase was fair to all the member systems, unlike what had been previously proposed, and which was shot down by the governor. This proposed increase is now in the public hearing stage of which, at its conclusion, the NYPA board of trustees will vote to approve the increase. I feel the rate increase, if approved, will be minimal to our village due to our current hydro allocation. The last NYPA rate increase was in 2011 and, if approved, it would gradually raise rates yearly for the ensuing six years. NYPA is looking to collect 1.1 billion dollars over this period so it can invest in the Niagara Falls generating facility for needed upgrades, which will supply reliable electricity for decades to come. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning these electric rate issues. (585)703-2875

I have just received word that one of our new substation transformers is to be delivered during the week of the 27th, with the other two not far behind. This equipment is all part of the village's substation upgrade project.

Site work has begun at Hickory Park for the construction of the new pavilion. The concrete footers have been poured, and the floor is being prepared to be poured. Actual materials for framing are due in house in early November. This new pavilion will be a great addition to the already beautiful Hickory Park.

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 or

From the Desk of the Village Historian, Vicky Truax

The Story of Crossroads House: A Legacy of Compassion and Community

Today's story highlights the inspiring journey of Crossroads House, which began in the mid-1990s—a time when comfort care homes were virtually unknown in our region. The vision was brought to life by founder Kathy Panepento, who, alongside a committed board of directors, undertook the ambitious mission of creating a home-like environment for those facing the end of life.

From the very beginning, the project was grounded in strong community support. Local businesses donated materials, and volunteers gave countless hours of labor. A major turning point came when the First Presbyterian Church of Batavia offered its vacant manse at 11 Liberty Street for just one dollar a month—saving the building from demolition and providing the perfect space for Crossroads House to call home.

After two years of fundraising and renovations, Crossroads House welcomed its first resident on January 7, 1998. Since then, it has served over 680 individuals, offering peaceful, home-like surroundings that include inviting spaces like a living room, dining room, all-season room, and a memory garden.

Crossroads House was created to ensure that no one in our community would be left without care during their final days. For over 27 years, it has remained true to its mission: affirming the dignity of life by providing compassionate, end-of-life care—thanks to the unwavering generosity of a community that believed in it from the start.

I personally spent many hours at Crossroads House while my mother-in-law was a resident there. During that time, I witnessed extraordinary compassion, professionalism, and dedication from the volunteers and staff.

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Village Emergency Contact Numbers

Electric 353-0981
Sewer 353-3659



These numbers do not receive text messages

Save the Date

Refuse Service **will not** be delayed for neither Veteran's Day nor Thanksgiving Day.



Village Tree Lighting

Monday, December 8th

A limited number of trees are available to decorate. Please contact the Village office to reserve yours today

Office Closings

Tuesday, November 11th
In honor of Veteran's Day

Thursday and Friday,
November 27th and 28th



Hometown Hero Banners



The Bergen Triangle Club, Ladies Auxiliary of the Sackett-Merrill-White American Legion, and the Friends of Bergen are proud to continue the Hometown Heroes Banner Program for spring 2026. The program serves as a tribute to recognize service men and women from Bergen who are currently serving or have been honorably discharged from service to our country, in a branch of the military.

These banners are proudly displayed in the Village of Bergen from Memorial Day through Veteran's Day each year.

Have a service member you know honored with a banner of their own. To order a banner to honor a service member, and to have questions concerning the banners answered, please email

amb0330@rochester.rr.com. Guidelines and an application will be sent to you. Orders must be submitted by February 28, 2026, for banners to be added to our display in 2026.

Bergen Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 6th, 2025, 6:00 PM
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church
38 South Lake Ave, Bergen, NY

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? Please call 494-1251.

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

Questions about attending or performing?

Contact Jocelyn Rebisz, call or text (585) 369-6043.

Change your Clocks/ Change your Batteries

Don't forget that at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 2nd, you will need to turn your clocks back one hour, marking the end of Daylight Saving Time. Time to change your smoke alarm batteries!

A fire can double in size every 30 seconds. The sound of the alarm will give you and your family those few extra seconds to get out and stay out of your home.

The Office of the Fire Marshal also recommends that one of the simplest things you can do to protect your family is changing the batteries in your smoke alarms/detectors and carbon monoxide detectors at the same time.

Any elderly or disabled residents who need assistance changing their smoke alarm batteries can call the office for this free service!

When your smoke alarms/detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order – they save lives!

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One particularly touching example of ongoing support comes from the family of Van Hulburt—a beloved local teacher, coach, and counselor. For 25 years, proceeds from the annual Van Hulburt Memorial Golf Tournament have been donated to Crossroads House. A proud Mason, Van's legacy continues to make a lasting impact through his family's generosity.

The reach of Crossroads House now extends beyond its original mission. In June 2025, it expanded by opening *Crossroads House Collectibles*, a secondhand and antique store located at 12 South Lake Avenue in Bergen—just across from the library, on the lower level of the Hesperus Masonic Lodge. Open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the store offers not just unique treasures but also a warm, welcoming space powered by volunteers.

I currently volunteer at the store and have met incredible people—both fellow volunteers and the patrons who support our mission. Crossroads House is always looking for new volunteers, and I encourage anyone interested to stop in, explore the shop, and see firsthand the difference this organization continues to make.