



Mayor's Message

Mayor Anna Marie Barclay

From the Desk of the Village Historian

CHRISTMAS AWAY FROM BERGEN, AND HOME!



During the 1960's my aunt and uncle, Lillian and Erven Hoppough, were matron and patron at the Genesee County Home in East Bethany. Our family visited them over Christmas. We went Christmas eve and stayed through Christmas day. The first year there, in consideration for their youngest daughter, Jane, because she still believed in Santa, my aunt and uncle didn't realize that *The Daily News* brought a dollar and a candy filled stocking to each patient. This required a morning distribution of the gifts by the matron and patron, and all. What to do? So, a new tradition began for us. We opened our family gifts Christmas Eve, and each of the other 8 years they were at the home. In the morning, the oldest daughter, Beverly, dressed as Santa and delivered the gifts with many, "Ho, Ho's"! She was very personable with her delivery. The spirit of giving, for me, became very real. I joined in, smiled and spread good wishes along with the whole family.

I had made gifts for others prior to that time, and had given them with great excitement, but this situation really meant something more to this high school kid. I was not in Bergen, in my comfortable home at Christmas for the first time, and attention to our family needs was not a priority. It was to others that was the focus. In many cases, the patients had no one to visit and those few moments and conversations spent with them were very much appreciated.

I gave-up being in my home, my time, and gave to others. It was such a good lesson for me. Upon returning to Bergen and my home, I looked at the decorations, and as I stood on a warm register absorbing the heat coming through the pipes, and I remember thinking that Christmas had been good, even being away from my home in this wonderful Village of Bergen. Now, over 50 years later, I still remember helping others, and the wonderful feeling of being home, no matter how humble, just being home in Bergen was so very good!

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Holiday Office Closings

December 22nd, 25th, & 29th
and January 1st



Clean Energy Community Designation

Village Tree Lighting Details

Infrared Home Scanning

Winter Reminders

Save the Date



Village Tree Lighting

Monday, December 4th, 2017

Caroling at 6:15pm

Hickory Park to Ward Park

A limited number of trees are available for decoration.
The trees will be planted in the Spring around the Village
Please contact the Village office to reserve yours today!

#BergenProud