

**March
2019**

Mayor's Message

Snowbells are blooming through the leaves and twigs blown by the many wind episodes this winter, an indication that warmer weather is around the corner and spring clean up will begin!

As a reminder to the types of service the village provides for brush and leaf pick up, a flyer will be included in this month's mailing. With everyone's help, the process runs smoothly and efficiently for everyone.

Village summer events, the 30th Park Festival, Farmers Market, summer rec program, community yard sale, disc golf tournament, 5K race, are quickly filling the calendar. We will keep you updated in the newsletter, on the web-site, facebook page, and twitter.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the public meeting on the sewer rate increase and being involved in a positive and informative discussion.

Conversion to LED lighting in village owned buildings is being completed, the Chevy Volt has arrived in the village, and the charging stations are being utilized; all paid for through the NYSERDA grant the village received.

Wishing everyone a Happy Spring and Happy Easter!!

Mayor Anna Marie Barclay

From the Desk of the Village Historian, Ray MacConnell

HOBOS from the tracks, long ago! from the Village Historian, Ray MacConnell

By definition hobos are traveling people, men mostly, who will work, if needed. Tramps work only when forced. Bums will not work at all. All are homeless vagrants. Most traveled by hopping on trains.

As a child, I would be very excited to see the railroad cars pass through our village as my family sat in our car on Route 19 ready to cross the tracks. If I saw an open side door in an empty car I would be told to see if I could spot a hobo inside it. A few times I did see someone inside the car. If all else failed, I was told to count the railroad cars, and then wave at the man in the caboose. Little did I know where the trains would stop. They stopped for other trains to pass, or to have the hobos jump on or off as the train slowed down. At my age of 6 or 7 I was fascinated by the exotic places these people experienced. I thought it was a wonderful life they were experiencing. Most went South for the Winter, but during the Summer they would travel East and West from city to city.

My dear grandmother, who lived at 19 South Lake Avenue in later years, told me of these traveling people coming to her back door asking for something to eat. She always had something to give them. She told me instructions were given to eat on the back steps and leave the plate and utensils on the steps when they finished. She asked one man why they stopped at her house. He said because of the marks on the curb. It must have been an unwritten policy that if one got a favorable meal at a home that all others might also receive food. It was all told in the mark on the curb.

My father, as manager of the "Harts" market in the village, also would have people stop by asking for food. I remember one incident when I was in the store with dad, a man walked in and asked just that question. My dad went to the meat cooler and picked out one or 2 ends to the large bologna tube that could not be sold to customers, but we from time to time snacked on them. He wrapped them in brown paper and grabbed a few pieces of bread to go with it. He handed it to the man and the man turned sharply out of the store to be on his way. The man did say, "Thank you", I do remember.

I am sure many houses in Bergen, and so many other communities along the N.Y. Central, were approached for food. One sees very few men, "Riding the rails", today. The high speed of the trains, and lack of open boxcars account for the few people who try to use the trains today.



**Village Emergency
Contact Numbers**
Electric 353-0981
Sewer 353-3659



The office will be closed Friday,
April 19th.

Important Reminder About Gas Leaks

If you suspect a natural gas leak, get up, get out, get away!
Then immediately call RG&E at [800.743.1702](tel:800.743.1702) or [911](tel:911)
from a safe location.

RG&E will respond quickly to ensure that you and your family are safe.

- **Do not** smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might ignite the natural gas and cause an explosion.
- **Do not** assume someone else will report the condition.
- Provide the exact location, including cross streets.
- Let us know if sewer construction or digging activities are going on in the area.

Use your senses to detect gas leaks.

A natural gas leak is usually recognized by smell, sight, or sound. Remember, if you smell natural gas, get up, get out and call us immediately from a neighbor's phone.

- **Smell** Natural gas is colorless and odorless. For your safety, a distinctive sulfur-like odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you'll recognize it quickly. Not all transmission lines are odorized.
- **Sight** You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.
- **Sound** You may hear an unusual noise like roaring, hissing, or whistling.

Save the Date



Community Yard Sale

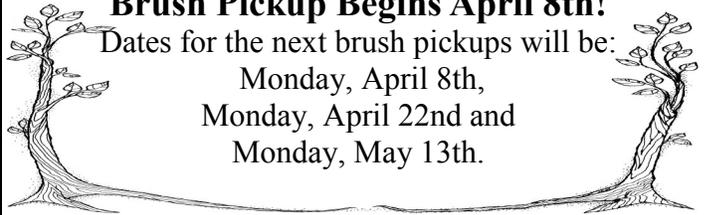
Saturday, August 17th

Anyone interested in helping for an hour or two, please contact the Village Office.

Brush Pickup Begins April 8th!

Dates for the next brush pickups will be:

Monday, April 8th,
Monday, April 22nd and
Monday, May 13th.



Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 13th
1pm
Hickory Park



Thursdays 4pm to 7pm
June 13th thru September 26th
Hickory Park

Sponsored by Village of Bergen

The 30th Annual Bergen Park Festival June 8th

Volunteers Needed!
Please call the Village office!

Friday afternoon/evening setup
Saturday assisting with the games and at the Main Tent, help with the chicken barbecue, and evening tear down.

Sunday 7:30am cleanup of the park.

2019 Summer Recreation Program

July 15th through August 9th
Monday through Friday



The 4th Annual Chuckfest Disc Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 20th
in Hartland Park

The tournament is open to all skill levels.