



**November
2017**



Mayor's Message

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

- Melody Beattie

On behalf of the Village Board, our office staff, linemen, and DPW, we wish you a special celebration of thanksgiving with family and friends

Mayor Anna Marie Barclay

From the Desk of the Village Historian

Mary Utley Wightman early resident of 12 Rochester St., my current home

Wanda MacVean, former Bergen Town Historian, found a series of letters between Mary Wightman to her daughter, May. Wanda typed them out and handed copies to me shortly before her death in 1997. The letters led me to be inquisitive about the people who had lived in the house before my family occupied it.

The house was built in about 1850 and I believe Mary and her two children were the first residents of it. Mary was a widow. She never spoke of her husband in the letters I received from Wanda. He died in 1857 in Herkimer County, New York. He was a Baptist minister. The copied letters were dated 1864 and 1865. I believe Mary and her family moved into Bergen shortly after her husband's death. Why they chose Bergen, I do not know. Mary had 2 children May Elizabeth born in 1848, and Jay Cuttler in 1854. Jay died in 1873 of typhoid fever at the age of 19 in Westfield, NY. The daughter died in 1927 at the age of 77, also in Westfield, from angina pectoris. Mary died in 1924 at the age of 104 years, 8 months. All 3 are buried in Westfield, NY. I have visited the grave sites.

I believe Mary left Bergen in or around 1870 and moved to Westfield. This move was made to be closer to her daughter who was teaching in the Westfield schools and Chautauqua area. The letters were written to her daughter and were full of family news, sickness, and village happenings. Most happenings were related to church meetings, conversions, and all. The greetings which Mary used in the letters were "My Dear Little Girl", and "My Dear Child".

My house was also owned by Mrs. E.V. Green, then Willard and Lillian Munger. He was a mail carrier. My grandparents on my father's side, Erotus and Mary MacConnell later owned the home. My parents took it over after his father died and his mother was unable to stoke the coal fire. They moved in about 1946 just before my birth. Mary died soon after, and my mother's mother, Martha Wilcox, joined us until her death in early 1958. I was devastated upon her death because she spent so much time listening to my stories from school. Grandma Wilcox was my everything! I will continue to live in the home, until it is no longer possible.

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Holiday Office Closings



November 23rd & 24th
December 22nd, 25th, & 29th
and January 1st

#BergenProud

Congratulations to the Byron-Bergen Athletes for their great seasons! Girls Volleyball on their Section V Title, Cal-Mum/Byron-Bergen Football on their Section V Title and Boy's Soccer on their Section V Title.

Department of Public Works

Please remember that there is no parking on Village streets between 2:00 am and 7:00 am. Your assistance will help our crews in their efforts to keep our roads clean and safe during the winter months.

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.



Fall Brush and Leaf Pick-up

Brush and leaf pick-up will be on November 27th. This will be our last scheduled pick-up. Remaining pick-ups will only be done on an as needed basis.

As a reminder, we will not pick-up leaves that are bagged in plastic bags. They must be in paper!



Save the Date



Bergen Community Christmas Concert
Saturday, December 9th, 2017 6:00pm
Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church
38 South Lake Avenue

Join us for an evening of Christmas music performed by members of the community, Young and old are welcome to attend. Special family friendly seating available, bring your little ones!

Cookies, milk, and cocoa to follow.

New this year: Need a ride? Call 494-1251

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

Questions about attending or performing? Contact
Jocelyn Rebisz, 494-6031

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.

Please contact the Village office to reserve yours today!

Please note that the caroling starts 15 minutes earlier this year!

Road Closure

On Monday, December 4th Rochester Street will be closed between Lake Avenue (Rt. 19) and Buffalo Road (Rt.33) for the Annual Village Tree Lighting Ceremony in Ward Park.

The entire street will be closed from 6:15pm to 6:45pm. After which just the area at the end by Buffalo Road where Ward Park is located will remain closed until 8:00pm.

Thank You and Please Join Us for The Tree Lighting Ceremony!!!