



Mayor's Message



It is with great sadness that we share with you the passing of a dear friend of the Village of Bergen, a life long resident, Raymond "Ray" MacConnell. Ray lost his battle with the effects of diabetes last week and we have lost the teller of our stories.

As our village historian, Ray shared stories of our history filled with dates and facts, but added his own wit and personal experiences of the boy listening in on events his parents and their friends discussed, of visiting neighbors to help with chores or pick up a treat, or visiting his father's store and hearing the stories of the day as folks stopped in. We were entertained and informed by his stories in our newsletters, on the story boards he developed and shared with students, historical groups, and organizations, or just in passing on the sidewalk or in the office. Folks from across the country or in our back yards would contact Ray for family information or even to refresh a memory. He never hesitated to set up meetings with them and to research information. This often included meetings with other historians and trips to local cemeteries for additional facts.

You will not find an obituary for Ray, it was his wish not to have one published even though he used them a great deal for his research. There will be no services.

We will miss our teller of stories, our friend, but will continue to share his work and memories of Bergen. Rest peacefully Ray. See ya Kid!!

Mayor Anna Marie Barclay

Memories of my childhood on Rochester St., a series of writings by Village of Bergen Historian, Ray MacConnell

Joe and Edith Claude moved to 17 Rochester St. after closing their 5 and 10 cent store on Lake St, next to the bakery. Joe died in 1959. My mom got a phone call one morning from Edith asking for a few extra blankets, "Joe was cold" she said. Yes, he was cold because he had died during the night. Edith had no idea of his passing. She continued to live alone for her remaining years at that address. We lived at 12 Rochester St. I would get her mail each day and deliver it to her. She would always have her TV on and be in her rocking chair. Upon hearing the front door open on the porch, her head would drop and she faked sleeping. I would call at the door, "Mrs. Claude, Hello", and soon she would wake, and clutch her chest, as if having a heart attack. For this daily event she could get a few extra moments of attention from me and after our conversation each day, she would be fine. She was lonely and somehow as a boy of 12 years, I finally realized that fact. Many times she would be setting her hair for church on Sunday. My family would take her by car. I was always full of questions about her procedure. In a tea cup on a card table in front of her was her secret to "beautiful hair". It was bacon grease, yes, bacon grease! She would comb some strands and then apply the bacon grease, then roll it on a curler. The next day her hair would be a maze of tight curls and they stayed tight 'til the next hair session. Then there was the time she fainted in church during a hymn. She fell flat on the floor. I was standing on one side of her and my mom on the other. I was stunned. Marge Heizerling, a nurse, rushed to help. Mrs. Claude was fine. What I remember about the hymn was it being "Onward Christian Soldiers." Marge kept singing the hymn as she assisted Mrs. Claude. Marge was not a singer. Upon her death, in 1967, she was buried next to Joe in Mt. Rest Cemetery and her daughter, Pearl. Mary Sackett also was a good neighbor to Edith. Mary and Skip lived to the left of Mrs. Claude.



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



Village Meetings

Board of Trustees

Second Wednesday of the month
6:30pm

Planning Board

Third Wednesday of the month
7pm
Agenda items must be submitted no later than ten
days prior to the meeting

Bergen Triangle Club Cookbook

*A beautiful collection of recipes by the ladies of
the 110 year old Triangle Club...the perfect
addition to anyone's kitchen.*

*The cookbooks are available from any Triangle
member, or at the village office. \$10.00*

Office Closings

Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th
In celebration of Thanksgiving
Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th
In celebration of Christmas
Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31st and January
1st In celebration of the New Year

Sackett-Merrill-White American Legion Post #575

Saturday, December 7th
Spaghetti Dinner 4-6pm
DJ 6-9pm
Cash Raffles, 50/50 Raffle and Basket Raffles
For more information or to purchase tickets, contact
Lew Cunningham (585)494-2524

Save the Date



Village Tree Lighting

Monday, December 2nd, 2019

Caroling at 6:15pm

Hickory Park to Ward Park

A limited number of trees are available for decoration.
This year we are using cut trees. If you would like to
decorate a tree this year, we are requesting \$20 per
tree to cover the purchase price.

Please contact the Village office to reserve yours
today!

Road Closure

On Monday, December 2nd, 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.



Bergen Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 7th, 2019
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.
Family friendly, bring all your little ones!
Cookies, milk, and cocoa to follow.
Need a ride? Call 494-1251

Calling all musicians (Instrumentalists, musical indi-
viduals and groups) please share your talent with our
community!

Questions about attending or performing?
Contact Jocelyn Rebisz, 494-6031
jrebisz@protonmail.com
Or on Facebook:
Bergen Community Christmas Concert