



**January
2026**

Mayor's Message

I hope this newsletter finds you all well as we start a new year. With the new year, budgets for June 1 2026-2027 fiscal year begins. The village board has begun discussing the general budget and I see no tax increase for the village residents for the 2026-2027 fiscal period.

The village was notified that we will not be awarded our grant application for a joint comprehensive study that was submitted on the Village and Towns behalf. We are inquiring as to whether we can resubmit a grant application. On the brighter side, the Village was notified that we were awarded \$200,000.00 from NYSERDA which will be used to offset engineering costs related to the new electric substation project. This award, along with the 1.26-million-dollar fast NY Grant, brought us up to 1.46 million dollars in grant money we have received towards our substation project which has a tentative completion date of September 2026.

At the January Board of Trustees meeting, held on January 14th, Resolution 1 of 2026 was passed to designate and dedicate our new park pavilion in Hickory Park to the Bergen Fire Department in recognition of its service to the community. A ceremony along with the presentation of a commemorative plaque will take place at the pavilion this spring.

With the high winds we have been experiencing the office has had calls about brush pickup. Our normal brush pickup ends in November, but we make exceptions for storms. If your brush can wait till spring, I kindly ask that you wait to put out to the curb. If the brush cannot wait till spring, our crew will do their best to pick it up.

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 (585)703-2875.

From the Desk of the Village Historian, Vicky Truax



Today's story honors longtime resident Douglas W. Susat. Doug was born on June 19, 1926. He grew up in Buffalo but spent many childhood visits in Bergen. Doug's parents were Frederick and Elizabeth (Lyttle) Susat. Elizabeth was from Bergen. Doug's grandparents lived at 41 Buffalo Street. His grandfather worked on the railroad across the street from his home. Doug remembers riding the rail with him many times. Before graduating, Doug enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served honorably during World War II. Stationed aboard the USS *Sampson* (DD-394), he served in the Pacific and saw active combat.

After the war, Doug married Caroline "Carrie" Martin, and together they had one daughter, Michelle. He worked in sales before moving to 54 S. Lake, a home that had no running water at the time. Doug later worked for the Village of Bergen Department of Public Works, reading electric meters, when he was seriously injured after falling into a dry well while walking through a backyard. The accident left one of his

legs permanently disabled.

Despite this life-altering injury, Doug refused to let it define him. He converted his basement into an upholstery shop, and as the business grew, he added a workshop onto his home where he refinished furniture. Eventually, he opened a showroom and sold products from the Sears catalog. Alongside his furniture business, Doug developed a passion for collecting and restoring antique automobiles. At one point, he had as many as nine cars on site. One of his restored vehicles—a 1913 Model T pie wagon bearing the stencil "Susat Furniture, Bergen, NY"—was donated to the AACA (American Automobile Club of America) Museum in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

In his later years as a widower, Doug spent much of his time with his best friend, Jadwiga Syfert. Doug was truly larger than life, guided by his motto: "Do it once, and do it right." He was known for his strong work ethic and dedication. I fondly remember seeing Doug drive his restored cars in the Bergen Memorial Day Parade and Park Day Parade. I often think of him when I look at my dining room set, which was purchased from his furniture store.

Doug was a member of the Bergen Fire Department, American Legion Post 575, St. Brigid's Church, the Loyal Order of the Moose in LeRoy, and the USS *Sampson* WWII veterans group, among others. He was deeply honored to serve as chaplain at the dedication of the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Doug passed away on October 2, 2012, at the age of 86. He leaves behind his daughter, two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, who continue to carry on his legacy. Doug is buried in Grand View Cemetery in Batavia.



Village Emergency Contact Numbers

Electric 353-0981
Sewer 353-3659



These numbers do not receive text messages



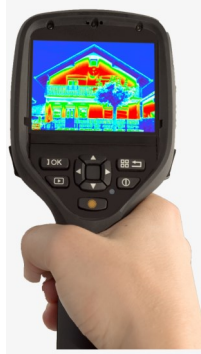
Residential Refuse Collection

Refuse Service **will not** be delayed for President's Day!
Pickup will be **Tuesday, February 17th**

Save the Date

LAST CALL! Thermal Infrared Imaging

We are again offering a **free infrared assessment on your home**. The assessment, complete with color photos and helpful information show areas of heat loss. If you are interested please contact the Village Office .



- Visit wm.com 7 days prior to a holiday to view the schedule for your area.
- Waste collection services typically occur between 5 a.m. and 6 p.m. local time. As a best practice, please place your container out the night before the day of your service.
- Make sure the lid on your container is completely closed so our drivers can service them safely.
- Three feet apart with lids opening toward the street
- At least three feet from cars, trees, and mailboxes
- Wheels as close to the curb as possible
- Please remove containers as soon as possible after collection



Office Closing

The office will be closed
Monday, February 16th
In honor of President's Day

Department of Public Works



Please remember that there is no parking on Village streets between 2:00am and 7:00am and no parking across the sidewalks at any time. Your assistance will help our crews in their efforts to keep our roads clean and safe during the winter months. Vehicles that remain parked on the street between these hours will be towed at the owner's expense.

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.

Property owners and snow removal contractors should be aware that shoveling or plowing snow from private property onto or across public roads is illegal because it can present a serious traffic hazard to motorists.

Customers must keep the approach to their mailboxes clear of obstructions to allow safe access for delivery. If USPS employees are impeded in reaching a mail receptacle, the postmaster may withdraw delivery service.

On-street parking on Lake Avenue is limited to 2 hours at all times and there is no overnight parking allowed.

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.