

TOWN OF BERGEN

Newsletter

From the Desk of Town Supervisor,
Ernie Haywood....

THANK YOU

Thank you to Joel Pocock, Highway Superintendent, and the town crew for the outstanding work they do keeping our roads clear of snow and ice. They have been especially busy over the past few months, and we appreciate their dedication to maintaining safe travel throughout the town. Their work was recognized in January when the Bergen Business and Civic Association treated the town crew to a lunch.

I also want to thank Teresa Robinson, Town Clerk, and her Deputy Clerks for their extra hours and effort during tax collection season. In addition to town taxes, the Clerk's Office also collects taxes for the Library, County, and Fire District. We appreciate their continued hard work.

PARKS & NATURE CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

One of the Town's priorities this year is to continue improvements

to our parks and recreation areas. With input from residents, the Town completed a Parks Master Plan in 2018 outlining recommended enhancements for Robins Brook Park and Drew's Nature Center. We remain committed to moving these projects forward.

ROBINS BROOK PARK

This 28-acre park on Townline Road features soccer and baseball fields, a pavilion, walking trails, and an electric vehicle charging station. Through a partnership with BOCES, Building Trades students are constructing bathrooms behind the pavilion, with completion expected next year. The Town is applying for New York State grant funding to install a new playground at Robins Brook Park. Residents are encouraged to complete the park improvement survey included in this newsletter. Your feedback will help the Town Board set priorities and strengthen our grant application.



March, April & May 2026

Bergen Town Supervisor	Ernie Haywood	494-1121 ext. 122
Deputy Supervisor	Belinda Grant	
Town Board	Karen Ely	
	Mark Swanson	
	Cindy Anderson	
Town Clerk	Teresa Robinson	494-1121 ext. 120
Highway Superintendent	Joel Pocock	494-1121 ext. 300
Assessor Rhonda Saulsbury		494-1121 ext. 100
Planning/Zoning Gerry Wood		(585) 490-4152

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DREW'S NATURE CENTER

Drew's Nature Center is accessible from West Bergen Road or Route 19 via the West Shore Trail and includes ponds and walking trails. Over the past six months, BOCES Conservation students have been clearing trails and identifying future improvement projects. The Town also has applied for funding to identify invasive species threatening the ecosystem and to support improvements, including bridges over wet areas, ATV barriers, trail markers, and tree planting. Once invasive species are identified, a management and eradication plan will be developed.

SENIOR CITIZEN AGE EXEMPTION LEVELS INCREASED

In recognition of the increase cost for seniors, the Town Board of Bergen approved an increase in the minimum annual income limit from \$16,500 to \$29,799 and the maximum annual income levels from \$31,300 to \$32,199,99 and increased the level of exemption from 50% to 65% for senior citizens to qualify. To apply contact the town assessor.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me at supervisor@bergenny.org or (585) 494-1121.

Ernie Haywood, Supervisor

From the Desk of County Legislator Christian Yunker.....

Genesee County is entering the year with a clear focus on strengthening essential services, advancing major infrastructure projects, and preparing for long-term growth. State-level budget pressures, workforce needs, and community expectations are all shaping an agenda that balances immediate demands with future planning. The County continues to advocate strongly in Albany as New York moves forward with shifting SNAP administrative costs to counties beginning the last quarter of 2026. This change in reimbursement would add roughly

\$400,000 annually to Genesee County's budget, obviously a significant number.

Progress on the Countywide Water System remains a major highlight. All pumps for Phase 2 are now delivered or ordered, keeping construction at the Scottsville, North Road, Riga, and Morgan Road pump stations on track for completion this summer. Phase 3 is advancing through engineering, permitting, and long-range planning with our engineer Arcadis, including evaluation of 5-, 10-, and 25-year system improvements.



A water-source change evaluation and pipe-rig study will take place this year in coordination with the City of Batavia as we need lead line samples to evaluate the mixing of different water sources. Federal partners continue to play a key role, including the recently secured \$10 million for the VA water storage tank, where engineering is underway. We are very thankful for this \$10 million grant as any of these takes pressure off taxing the users directly towards this massive water project. We continue to advocate all the time. I am traveling to Washington DC to meet with Schumer, Gillibrand, Tenney and the Sub committee's office on Energy and Water in both the Senate and House.

We have several capital and operational priorities in the 2026 budget that support the county's broader modernization efforts. Projects include completing the Engine House renovation where we will move many of our Public defenders and some of the DA's, beginning engineering and renovation at the Holland Land Office Museum, constructing a new Airport support building, and renovating the Animal Shelter. Workforce stability remains central, with efforts to reach full staffing, add two new sheriff's positions, continue hiring correction officers—including female officers needed to fully utilize the new jail—and launch a new Housing Officer role to strengthen the county's housing stock. Ratification of three union agreements (SEA, CSEA, DSA) will provide stability for employees and predictability for taxpayers. A Human Services Campus study is also underway to

guide future consolidation and more efficient use of county-owned facilities.

Additional goals include supporting volunteer fire and EMS agencies through the Fire Advisory Board, expanding shared-service opportunities with the City, towns, and villages through grant writing, code enforcement and targeted chargebacks, among many other initiatives. Happy to answer questions or help anytime. Look forward to Spring weather.



From the Desk of Highway Superintendent, Joel Pocock.....

With winter hopefully behind us, the Highway Department is preparing for spring cleanup, road maintenance, and construction projects throughout the town. Our crew will be working to repair winter damage, improve road conditions, and prepare for the upcoming construction season.

BRUSH PICKUP

Brush pickup will start (weather permitting) on May 11. The Highway Department will make one trip down each road in town. Please have all brush placed at the roadside before this date.

Place brush neatly along the road shoulder, not in the roadway or ditch.

Keep piles clear of mailboxes, poles, and fire hydrants

The brush should be stacked with cut ends facing the road when possible.

No stumps, roots, lumber, leaves, or yard debris — brush only.

SPRING ROAD WORK

Spring road work is currently being scheduled. Work may include:

Pothole repair and shoulder maintenance
Road sweeping and ditch cleaning.

Culvert inspection and replacement where needed.

Surface treatment and paving on selected roads.

Temporary lane closures, loose stone, flaggers, and slower traffic should be expected in work zones. Please use caution,

reduce speed, and allow extra travel time when passing through highway work areas.

STAY INFORMED

Updates on brush pickup, road work schedules, and other highway projects will be posted on the town website and Facebook page as they become available.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 585-494-1121 ext. 300.

Highway Department hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

My crew and I wish you a safe and Happy Spring, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to maintain and improve our town roads.

From the Desk of Town Clerk,
Teresa Robinson....

Town & County Taxes

The last day to pay your Town & County Taxes in person at the Town Hall will be Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Dog Licenses

•**Who needs a license?** All dogs **4 months or older** legally need to be registered (licensed).

•**Where to register?** License your dogs with the **Town Clerk**.

•**What to bring?** You must bring an **updated rabies vaccination certificate and certificate of spay and neuter**.

•**Benefit of licensing:** Being licensed can help bring your dog home safely if they are lost.

Town Clerk

Hours:

Monday – Thursday
8 am – 4:30 pm
Closed from 12:00
pm – 12:30 pm

Friday 8 am–11 am

Evening hours
available by
appointment

494-1121 ext. 120

The Clerks' office
will be closed for the
following Holidays:

Good Friday, April
3rd

Memorial Day
Monday, May 25

The Genesee County Health
Department 2026 Rabies
Immunization Clinic, May 14,
2026, 4:00—6:30 pm.
Genesee County Fairgrounds,
5056 East Main St., Batavia
NY. For more information call
(585) 344-2580 ext. 5555



2026 Free Fishing Days Schedule

Free Fishing Days for 2026 have been announced. Free fishing days offer residents and non-residents who are 16 and older* to fish without a freshwater fishing license (*Kids under 16 can always fish for free!)

- **June 27-28**
- **September 26** (National Hunting and Fishing Day)
- **November 11** (Veterans Day)

For more information, please visit the DEC website here: <http://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/freshwater-fishing/learn-to-fish>



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From the Desk of Town Historian, Tom Tiefel....

I think my feeling is shared by many when I say I'm tired of this winter. Old Punxutawney Phil predicted a long winter and we are finding this out to be true. We endured many inches of snow and nearly 3 consecutive weeks of below zero temperatures. I heard a phrase quite often this year, "this is an old fashioned winter". I do remember some harsh ones over my 53 years, but it made me think, what is an "old fashioned winter"? What were they like say 50-100 years ago or more in Bergen?

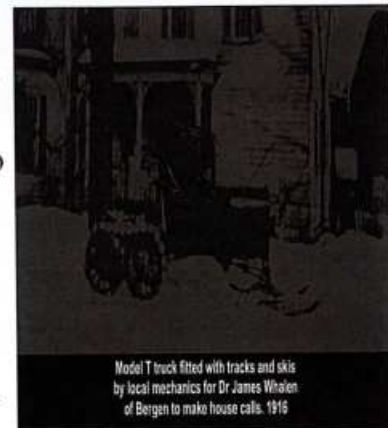
Many of us remember the Blizzard of 1977 and the Ice Storm of 1991. But those are events. I'm looking more at the winters past. Historically, we had more consistent winters back then, but I believe the biggest difference was the lack of snow removal

equipment. Many years ago, people improvised everyday machinery and vehicles to handle everything that winter would dole out. The buggy was put into storage and

the sleigh was put into service. Tracks and skis were fastened to the family's Model T or Model A Ford. Early road construction equipment such as

leveling graders were used as snow plows.

By the 1940's, the standard commercial plow truck was in service. Many of us have seen a plateau of their innovation over the last few decades. I'm sure there's been



Model T truck fitted with tracks and skis by local mechanics for Dr. James Whalen of Bergen to make house calls. 1916

some changes to these commercial plows and technological improvements, but the basic design of the municipal snow removal equipment has been pretty standard. We've also seen modern innovations with insulation products for homes and buildings with alternative heating sources.

As I plowed out my driveway with my newer snow plow on my pickup using only my thumb on the controller, it made me think about how different things were in my family during my childhood. Our snowblower was crude by today's standards. There were no shortage of shovels, and who can forget standing over that big steel floor heat register to thaw out.



**CHRISTMAS DAY-1920
JIM THOMPSON AND HIS
NIECE.**

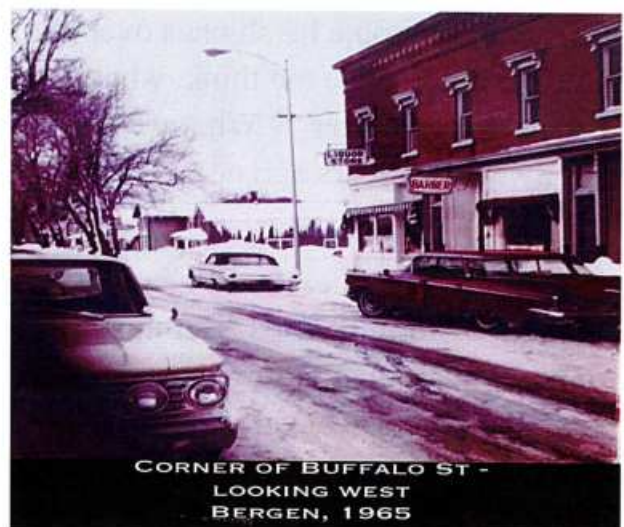
I can imagine a time when the air in town was filled with the faint but persistent smell of the various types of wood burning in fireplaces and wood stoves. The cold air itself had that "smell of winter". It's a smell that you can't quite describe, but you know it's there. Everything moved slower. Trips to the store or other places were more like planned events. You bundled your trips, you called friends and family to check on them. You anxiously waited for the glow of headlights illuminating the front yard as your loved one who took longer than expected finally arrived home from school or work.

The snow covered roads and slow-go was the topic of dinner conversation that evening. All of these memories makes me realize that the term "old fashioned winter" means something more than just a season. It was a way of life. It was a place in time that we unknowingly enjoyed. It's a place that only exists today in our memories. Take the time to share your past experiences of winter's history with your future generations. It sure puts things into perspective.



**A SNOWY SATURDAY MORNING
LOOKING SOUTH IN THE VILLAGE OF
BERGEN 1918.**

As always, the Historian's office is located at 15 S. Lake Ave and if you have any questions or need assistance in research, call me at 494-0080 and I will be happy to assist you.



**CORNER OF BUFFALO ST -
LOOKING WEST
BERGEN, 1965**



Byron-Bergen Public Library

Library hours

Sunday and
Monday – Closed
Tues. 10-1 and 2-7
Weds. 10-1 and 2-7
Thurs. 10-1 and 2-7
Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-1

The Library has copy /fax / scanning service for a small cost, Spectrum Internet on three computers, Wi-Fi and interlibrary loans from any Library in the NIOGA Library system. You can follow us on Facebook. If you would like to get on our e-mail list – just call us or e-mail your information to byrbgn@nioga.org For more information on our services or programs, please call the Library at 494-1120.

Did you know?

The Library is Bigger than it Looks... The Byron-Bergen's interlibrary loan service gives you access to collections at other libraries!

Being part of the Nioga Library system gives you opportunities to interloan books from Niagara, Orleans, and Genesee County Libraries. Just check out our online catalog with your valid Library card unlock millions of books, audio books, music CD's, and DVD's available to you! Can't wait for delivery to the Library? Take your card to other libraries in the system and check it out yourself!

The Library has several free options for online and downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, music and movies you can read on your computer, smart phone, dedicated eBook reader, or tablet. Just go to the Byron-bergenpubliclibrary.org website and click on Libby, Hoopla, Blackstone, and Kanopy to find out more!

The Library is more than just books – there are movies and music, programs for all ages, book sales, and much more. Check us out at www.Byron-BergenPublicLibrary.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

We have museum passes for you to

borrow! Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester Memorial Art Gallery, Aquarium of Niagara, and Corning Museum of Glass. We do not put holds on these passes but you are welcome to call ahead to see if they are available. All you need is your Library card.

We have New York tax forms available here! You also can go to the website at www.nystax.gov and go to forms to print from home or here at the Library. If you need Federal tax forms, they are available at www.irs.gov

Library has Pre-K/Toddler story time for children at 10:30am on Fridays until March 27th for the winter session and will begin the spring session on April 17th. We enjoy a different themed story each week with a related craft! Registration is recommended by calling or stopping by the Library.

Book discussion group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. March 12th we are reading Wayward Girls by Susan Wiggs. Come join the discussion and meet We enjoy lively conversation about the book! Call or stop by the library to reserve your copy of our current book.

Chair Yoga 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month at 4pm. Join our certified

instructor Colleen – sign up today – space is limited - - Wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Donations to the instructor are appreciated.

NYS FREE Tax Assistance – Tuesday, March 17th, Thursday April 2nd and Tuesday April 14th with time slots available from 10:30am to 5pm! We are so pleased to be partnering with volunteers from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance to offer FREE tax help and e-filing. Please call us at 585-494-1120 to register for an appointment.

Join us for a **Pokémon Party Tuesday, March 3rd at 5pm.** We will be making a fun Pokémon themed craft! Feel free to bring your Pokémon cards to share with others as well as to trade if you would like. We will have the movie Pokémon 2000 on the projector, for you to enjoy a Pokémon themed evening! Refreshments will be provided!

Join us for St. Patrick's Day scavenger Hunt the week of March 17th -21th during regular Library hours. Stop in with your green on! Win a prize!

FAMILY BINGO! St. Patty's Day theme! Come join us Saturday March 14th at 11am- Win prizes, and have some fun for the whole family! Register by March 11th please by calling or stopping in.

Fun with Friends- **Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30pm - Glass on Glass Mosaic with Laura Leigh Creation.** This will create a piece that resembles traditional stained glass! Space is limited so please sign up asap—must sign up by

Tuesday, March 17th. This free project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

Beer 101 will be held on **Wednesday March 25th at 6:30pm.** Join Katie Beyer, Certified Cicerone®, as she presents HOW to taste and interact with beer as well as learning history and how and why of beer. Cost is \$5 per person- space is limited and refreshments will be provided. Sign up by March 20th!

Come to the Library and participate in a fantasy, **tabletop role-playing game like Dungeons & Dragons on Saturday, March 28th at 10:30 am!** This will be the start of a new campaign—all are welcome—run by Dungeon Master Jacob Seward. Registration by Friday, March 25th is appreciated.

Read to a Dog at the Library **Saturday March 28th at 11am!** Some special furry patrons will be joining us at the Library—trained therapy dogs from RocDogs! These doggies love being read to, petted, and adored! Open to kids and their families! No sign up necessary. If you can't come this Saturday they will be visiting the 4th Saturday of each month- mark your calendars!

Historical Society Meeting Thursday April 2 at 7pm here at the Library. Join us as we explore different aspects of history – first meeting for the year. Come find out what we are all about!

Spring Break Happenings!! April 7th—April 11th!!

Our first “Grown-up and Me” painting workshop with Art of Mandy on Tuesday April 7th at 6:30pm. You will be painting a picture that will when put together they will look like one. Sign up by Friday, March 31st to join. Space is limited so sign up soon. This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the with support of the office of the Governor and the New York

Arts with support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by GO ART!

Movie Day -Wednesday, April 8th at 3pm– Join us for a movie and enjoy popcorn & refreshments too! Movie to be determined closer to date - Registration by noon on April 8th is appreciated.

Join us for Crafts & Snacks from 5pm-7pm at the Library! We'll have an assortment of fun crafts for all ages out, and some refreshments to munch on while you craft!

Save the date of **April 15th for our annual pre-school concert!** Join our smaller patrons at the Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church at 9:30am for music and fun with **Mr. Buffalo's** show “**Let's All Sing & Dance**”. No Registration required! Just come join the fun!

National Library week is April 21th-25th --Stop in and take out 3 or more books and have a chance to win a prize!! Everyone invited to participate! And a special Look and Find for the week!

Our monthly “**Pokémon Party**” will be held

Tuesday, April 21st at 5pm! We'll have a Pokémon themed craft, and putting up our projector to play Pokémon episodes as well! As always, we'll be talking Pokémon, trading cards (if you want), and sharing your collections with each other!

Read to a Dog at the Library Saturday April 25th at 11am! Some special furry patrons will be joining us at the Library—trained therapy dogs from RocDogs! These doggies love being read to, petted, and adored! Open to kids and their families! No sign up necessary. If you can't come this Saturday they will be visiting the 4th Saturday of each month!

Fun with Friends will be Thursday April 30th at 6:30pm – We will be hosting Morgan Wagner and her talents help us create wonderful **Water-color paintings**.

The **UR Mobile Mammography Van** will be in the Library parking lot (located behind building) on **Friday, May 1st from 9am-3pm!** To make an appointment or for more information call 1-844-870-0002 weekdays between 8am and 4pm or email mammovan@urmc.rochester.edu

Happy Reading!

Nancy Bailey -- Library Manager



Town of Bergen Robins Brook Park Parks Survey

The Town of Bergen is inviting residents to participate in a community survey to help identify needed enhancements to Robins Brook Park. Your responses will help the Town Board investment priorities and support a potential application to the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS PLAYS) Grant, ensuring future improvements reflect the needs and preferences of the community.

Survey Details

How to Take the Survey...

The survey can be accessed online using the following link or scanning the adjacent QR code: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RobinsBrook>

*Paper copies of the survey are also available at Bergen Town Hall, or can be requested by telephone at (585) 494-1121. Completed paper surveys can be dropped off in the drop box outside the Town Hall or mailed to Town of Bergen, P.O. Box 249, 10 Hunter Street, Bergen NY 14416.

Deadline...

Please submit your responses by **March 20th, 2026.**

More Information...

For more information, please contact Chrissy Paradowski at cparadowski@labellapc.com

**Share your thoughts about
Robins Brook Park today!**



Mark Your Calendars.....

The Bergen Town Board will meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The next Town Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Genesee & Orleans County Health Departments
2026 Immunization and TB/PPD Testing Clinics

Appointments are Required, Please call to
schedule

Genesee County Health Dept., 3837 West
Main St. Rd, Batavia 585 344-2580 ext.
5555

Appointments 1:00 to 3:30 pm

March 4 & 18

April 1 & 15

May 6 & 20

June 3 & 17

Orleans County Health Dept., 14016 Route
31 West, Suite 101, Albion, NY 585 589-
3278

Appointments 1:00 pm—3:30 pm

March 10 & 24

April 7 & 21

May 12 & 26

June 9 & 23

Mustard Seed Food Pantry
Bergen United Methodist Church,
27 Lake Ave

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Hours: 2nd Tuesday of the Month 5:00 pm
to 8:00 pm and Last Saturday of the
Month 9:00 am to Noon

Donations always appreciated, contact the
BUM office at 585 494-1312 or of-
fice@bergenumc.org

Free Food Distribution Bergen Evangelical
Pres. Church; 38 S.
Lake Ave, Bergen, NY



March 19 April 16

May 21 June 18

Everyone is welcome to attend all Foodlink
Events!



Membership Matters

Over the past year, the Bergen Business and Civic Association (BBCA) has brought energy, connection, and celebration back to our community — and memberships make that possible.

Together, we've enjoyed:

- Bergen Park Festival with Parade and Fireworks
- Halloween Parade, Trunk or Treat & Cemetery Ghost Walk
- Community Easter Egg Hunt
- Community Garage Sale
- Concerts in the Park
- Teacher Appreciation Day
- Support for many local organizations and initiatives



These events don't just happen — they happen because neighbors like you believe in investing in Bergen. As we look ahead to the coming year, we're building on that momentum with new ideas, continued traditions, and even more opportunities for residents and businesses to connect.

Your support ensures that these hometown traditions remain strong — and that we can keep growing what makes Bergen such a special place to live and work.

Annual Membership Levels:

Business Membership (includes employees): \$35

Couples & Families: \$20

Individual: \$10

If you're unsure of your membership status, or simply want to reconnect, we'd love to hear from you:

- BBKA1896@gmail.com
- 585-329-7848 (Kim Donley)
- Join us for a meeting — 7:00 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month (except July, August, and December) at the Byron Bergen Public Library

You can also visit www.BergenBCA.com for updates and event information.

Thank you for being part of what makes Bergen exceptional. Your membership doesn't just support — it's participation in the heart of our community.

With appreciation,
The BBKA Leadership Team

MAIL PAYMENTS TO:
BBKA
PO BOX 24
Bergen NY 14416



As we move into March the BBCA has already enjoyed two fantastic meetings, and the excitement for this upcoming year is evident among everyone. There are so many wonderful initiatives underway and in the works.

Young Entrepreneurs Club

We launched a new initiative in February called the Young Entrepreneurs Club, and we are eager to see what this brilliant and energetic group will bring to our community. If you're interested in getting involved with this group, please reach out via email! Check out the flyer below for additional details.

Upcoming Events

We're actively planning a BRAND NEW Fall event to showcase the many talented individuals who call Bergen home. Stay tuned for more information about our very first ART SHOW.

With Easter just around the corner, we're excited to announce that this year's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on ****SUNDAY, MARCH 29th****. More details can be found below, and we can't wait to see you there!

Can you believe that we are only ****107 days away from Park Fest****? Time flies! The Park Fest Committee has started planning in earnest, and we are thrilled about this year's event. We're embracing the theme of the ****250th Birthday Celebration of the United States****, so get your red, white, and blue ready!

We would love to see themed floats in this year's parade, and we hope that churches, organizations, businesses, and neighborhoods will join us in making this year's parade a true celebration of pride for our community and our country

Expect all the beloved elements of past events: a parade, car show, bounce houses, food trucks, and a variety of vendors, and live music throughout the day. We're also considering a change to the Chicken BBQ, so stay tuned for updates on that. And, of course, you won't want to miss the ****FIREWORKS!**** Some new exciting elements are in the works, keep your eyes and ears open for those updates!

As always, you can find the most up-to-date information on our Facebook page, Bergen Business and Civic Association. if you're not following us yet, we hope you will!

We would love to share more about membership and how you can stand alongside us as we continue to help BERGEN GROW COMMUNITY.



June 13th, 2026

