

Berlin Township

NEWSLETTER



Combined Fall & Winter 2011

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Berlin Township received 100 percent of our State Aid, our property values increased and our bond rating was upgraded to "A"

As Mayor, it gives me a great sense of satisfaction and pride when our town is publicly recognized for outstanding projects, programs and practices. Over the past several months we have had several recognitions I would like to share with you.

As many of you have heard, the State introduced the Best Practices Initiative to its 566 municipalities as part of its reform efforts to make government operate more efficiently, strengthen its accountability, and better manage scarce taxpayers' resources. Berlin Township was given an 80 item checklist sorted into 8 areas: general management, financial standards, budget preparation and presentation, health insurance, personnel, public safety, energy, and municipal and school district cost-sharing. We were rated by the number of questions that we received a "yes" answer. If the question was not applicable to Berlin Township, we had to include a valid explanation in order for it to count in our favor. Depending upon our score, we could have been penalized a percentage of our State Aid based on a sliding scale. I am excited to announce, that based on our score, Berlin Township has received 100% of our State Aid for 2011!

The Philadelphia Inquirer recently applauded Berlin Township within an article that discussed the overall housing market and how it soared then deflated between 2005 and 2011. Berlin Township has shown an increase in its median price for a single family home during this period of time. Few communities in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester County have held onto the gains achieved from the 2005 through the mid 2007 peak of the housing boom. All but 17 of the 98 municipalities in these counties, median home prices at the end of the year's second quarter were less than they were in 2005. Berlin Township, with an increase of 13 percent, was one of only four towns in Camden County that witnessed an increase.

Additionally, as reported in the newspapers, while other towns have watched their bond ratings downgraded, Berlin Township's rating was upgraded. We have been given an "A" bond rating from Standard and Poor's! This clearly shows our long-term debt structure is strong and in this time of credit crunches, our short, medium and long term fiscal planning has resulted in savings to our taxpayers.

In closing, we realize any success is possible as we work with a respectful and cooperative team of elected officials who enjoy serving one of the best little communities in all of New Jersey. During these tough economic times and very restrictive budgets, it's more important than ever to "think outside the box" to do more with less. November is a month to be grateful for many things, including family and friends, great schools, and the community in which we live. Berlin Township is truly exceptional in all these ways and many more; this is why I'm so proud to call it my home and serve as your Mayor.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES



Shared Police/ Emergency Services

Over the past several months the Police Department has come into shared service agreements with several different entities. The first is the sharing of Detectives and Traffic Investigators.

The Chiefs of Berlin Twp., Berlin Boro, and Waterford Twp. Police Departments formulated a shared services agreement, which allows on-duty Detectives and/or Traffic Investigators to respond to each others Towns. This dramatically reduces overtime expenses for each Town by utilizing the on duty Officers.

Currently each Chief is looking towards expanding this into purchasing, training and any additional Police service that will save taxpayer money.

The second shared service is between the Police Department and the Berlin Twp. schools. The Chief recognized a need for immediate communication with everyone in this Town in the event of an emergency. After researching several different companies, the Chief and Superintendent Brian Betze came to an agreement to expand the schools Alert system to include everyone in Town. This arrangement will allow the Chief and other Officers to transmit any important announcements over the schools existing system. The Chief encourages everyone in the Town to sign up for this system, as this will allow immediate notification of any emergency in Town, including traffic conditions, weather conditions, and any emergency incident.

Please see the below to sign up for this great program:

Honeywell Instant Alert®

If you are interested in participating in an alert system by receiving e-mails, texts, and phone messages, please send an email to honeywell@btwpschools or call the number below. Please supply your e-mail address if you have one and your phone number (either mobile or landline). You will then receive information on how to login and customize your settings. These alerts will include township events, emergencies, road closures, school closings, and other appropriate information. If you are already registered through the school system, you do not need to register again. If you have any questions, please call the school district (767-9480ext. 1111).

Suspicious Activity

The Police Department asks everyone in Town to report any and all suspicious activity that you see. The Officers are patrolling 24 hours a day and will respond to your call very quickly. Let the Officers determine whether or not the activity is of significance. In surrounding Towns, during daylight hours, criminals are knocking on doors to see if anyone is home and if no answer, crimes are being committed. Through the shared services agreements amongst the Police Departments, it has been brought to our attention that several people have been home but have not reported this type of activity in the neighborhood. Please make the call, you're not bothering the Officer, as some people have stated to us.

Traffic

The Police Department reminds everyone that the speed limit on Haddon Ave. has been reduced to 25 mph and Walker Ave. has been reduced to 35 mph. Officers will be out there enforcing these new speed limits. The Police Department has received a grant to participate in the year end DWI Enforcement program, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over". Remember, if you drink, don't drive, and have a designated driver. As the winter weather approaches, please remember to remove your vehicles from the roadway when snow is on its way. This makes it easier for all emergency vehicles and the plows to navigate the roads and it is required per Township Ordinance # 117-9. Also if you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, please uncover it from the snow, in case of a fire emergency.

READY FOR THE PLUNGE!



THE RUN!



THE MUD!



THE HILL!



Officers Giving Back

On Saturday, November 12th and Sunday November 13th, Officers from the Berlin Township Police participated in the 2011 Tri-State Tough Mudder Run. The event has been labeled "Probably the Toughest Event on the Planet".

Tough Mudder is not your average lame mud run or spirit-crushing 'endurance' road race. The 12 mile obstacle courses are designed by British Special Forces to test all around strength, stamina, mental grit, and camaraderie. Forget finish times. Simply completing a Tough Mudder is a badge of honor. With the best obstacles and the most innovative courses, it's no surprise that Tough Mudder has ten times more participants than any other mud run and half a million participants globally. Tough Mudder has raised over two million dollars for the Wounded Warrior Project.

The money raised by this event goes to the Wounded Warrior project, helping our injured Service Men and Women. The following Officers from Berlin Township Police participated; Chief Joseph Jackson, Sgt. Tony McVeigh, Ptl. Dean Pumphrey, Ptl. Gene Edwards and Ptl. Mike Fitzgibbon, and together raised over \$1,000.00.

Excellent Police Work

The Chief would like to recognize the following Officers for going above and beyond while performing their duties. Detective Sergeant McVeigh has been hard at work in the Detective Bureau, which has resulted in a safer Berlin Twp. The Township was experiencing a crime wave during the months of September and October. These crimes consisted of armed robberies, thefts, burglaries, and narcotics distribution. Through Sgt. McVeigh's persistent, dedication and hard work, he was able to solve many through arrests.

One significant arrest was of a Jonathan Ralston. Sgt. McVeigh charged Mr. Ralston with two armed robberies that occurred along Rt. 73, one which was committed at gun point, the other at knife point, and with this arrest he was also able to clear a burglary and thefts. Sgt. McVeigh has also been very active in the area of narcotics enforcement. Several of these cases are Law Enforcement sensitive, however many of his cases have resulted in search warrants, arrests and seizures of monies and narcotics. Be reassured that Sgt. McVeigh, as well as every member of the Berlin Twp. Police Dept., have a "zero tolerance" mentality when dealing with narcotics enforcement. They will not tolerate any level of narcotics in this great Town. The Chief would also like to recognize Ptl. Dean Pumphrey who, in July of this year saved the life of a male who had just sustained a cardiac arrest. Ptl. Pumphrey received the 9-1-1 call, was on location in less than a minute, began CPR and administered the use of his AED, thus saving the man's life. Great job Ptl. Pumphrey.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT

PLEASE BE ADVISED, TO CONTACT THE

FALL 2011 LEAF COLLECTION

The PWD is currently collecting leaves.

The following is the schedule of the remainder of the fall leaf collection schedule:

Dec. 5 - 8, 2011
Wed. Trash Route

Dec. 12 - 16, 2011
Thurs. Trash Route

Dec 21 - 23 , 2011
Entire Twp if need be

Please DO NOT bag the leaves.

Please DO NOT place the leaves in the street.

Please place loose leaves, in piles directly behind the curb (or edge of pavement). Please keep all piles of leaves, at least, 10 feet from all storm drains.

Please keep branches and debris out of the leaf piles.

Pending weather conditions and staffing demands for the PWD, we are hopeful that we can maintain the schedule

CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF TRASH AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

Please note that trash and recyclable materials shall be placed in receptacles with handles, which have been manufactured with the container, and lids. Please do not mix trash and recyclable materials in the same container.

The maximum size of the receptacle shall be 40 gallons and the combined weight of the containers and contents shall not exceed 50 lbs.

When purchasing new containers, please make sure that the receptacle does not exceed the 40 gallon capacity.

The trash must be placed in receptacles, which only contain trash. Recyclable materials can be combined into the Township designated recyclable containers. The following recyclable materials can be combined into the same containers: glass bottles and jars; aluminium and metal cans, loose metal jar lids and steel bottle caps; #1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 recyclable plastics (plastic food and drink bottles and jugs, caps removed, squeezable bottles, dry cleaning and shopping bags, 3 and 5 gallon water bottles, sunglasses, DVD); newspaper, mail, magazines, brochures, phone books, paperboard boxes (cereal, pasta, tissue); cardboard, beverage carriers, greeting cards, file folders and office paper, paper towel rolls, paperback books, juice cartons, corrugated cardboard and paper bags (flattened).

Waxed paper and cardboard, freezer food containers, window panes, mirrors, styrofoam or paper to-go containers, organic food materials and waste, shall be placed in the trash.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs cannot be placed in the trash or recyclable receptacles as they contain mercury. Typically these light bulbs can be returned at the place of purchase.

Scrap iron, appliances (door removed), vehicle batteries, motor oil (in sealed containers), antifreeze from motor vehicles (in sealed containers), tires (without rims) and electronics will be collected during the scheduled trash days. Loose items shall be placed in containers, with a total weight not exceeding 50 pounds.

Concrete will be collected in containers, on the designated concrete collection days. The containers shall not exceed 50 pounds. No more than 100 pounds of concrete per collection date, can be placed for collection.

Please see the calendar for the collection dates for all of the above mentioned items.

Vegetation will be collected on Mondays, as marked, unless the Monday is a holiday. When the Monday is a holiday, the vegetation will be collected on the Friday of that week. The material shall be placed at the curbside and shall not be loose:

Grass clippings and lawn rakings
containers, 50 pounds max

Brush(branches, plants, vine)
containers, 50 pounds max or 4 feet or less length bundles, 50 pounds max.

Logs

4 inches in diameter or less and bundled in 4 feet or less lengths weighing 50 pounds maximum.

We recommend that, if you have large quantity of brush and logs and/or over 4" diameter, contact the PWD at 856-767-1854 x. 209 to reserve a truck for you to load, during the evenings or weekends, at your location.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

P W D PLEASE CALL: 856-767-1854 X.209

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

Please remove your vehicles from the street when any snow fall or ice storm is forecast to allow for the Public Works Department to perform the necessary treatment.

During a snowfall, please do not park your vehicles on the street until after the street has been plowed and treated, curb to curb. Please wait to shovel the sidewalk and driveway until the snow plowing of the street has been completed.

Please do not place the snow from the sidewalk and the driveway into the street.

A State of Emergency is declared to exist whenever there is a snowfall of four inches or more. The State of Emergency will continue for a period of 24 hours after the cessation of the snowfall. During the period of such an emergency all vehicles must be removed from the street. Vehicles, which have not been removed from the street may be ticketed and towed.

Residents are required to remove snow and ice from the sidewalk and gutter along the street frontage of the property, within 12 hours of daylight after the cessation of the snowfall.

SCAVENGING OF RECYCLABLES & ELECTRONICS

The current economic conditions have resulted in an increase in the unlawful collection (scavenging) of recyclable materials and electronics, which are being placed, curbside, for collection by the Public Works Department. The recycling facilities are reluctant to accept the electronics, which have been disassembled and stripped of the valuable components, and are charging a fee for these stripped items. If scavenging continues, it may become necessary for residents to drop off these items, at a designated, protected facility, possibly, on scheduled drop off dates.

We request that residents report individuals, which are unlawfully collecting these materials, to the Police Department.

It is unlawful for anyone to collect or disassemble recyclable materials and electronics, after they have been placed, curbside, for collection by the Township. Any person, which is convicted of collection by an unauthorized person is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment, in the County jail, for up to 90 days or both, for each separate offense.

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FOR THE SNOW REMOVAL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS

During snow events, the Township receives requests from Senior Citizens and physically disabled residents for the removal of snow from their sidewalks and driveway openings.

Anyone interested in offering volunteer snow removal services to those residents, are urged to contact the Public Works Department at 856-767-1854 x. 209, or the Township Clerks Office at 856- 767-1854 x.210, M-F, 9:00 am - 3:00pm. The Township will keep a listing of the volunteers. The Township will, then attempt to match a willing volunteer with these qualifying residents, requesting the snow removal services.

The Township service, matching volunteers with those requesting assistance will be available, Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 3:00pm, excluding holidays and declared emergency snow days.

Qualifying residents, requesting snow removal, will be 65 and older, living alone and/or have no family support and those with documented physical disabilities.

Qualifying residents and volunteers must register with the Township to participate in the program.

Helpful Information

SENIOR RESIDENT BUS SCHEDULE

The Berlin Township Senior Bus would like to pick you up at your door and take you on local shopping trips to Shop Rite and Wal-Mart.

At the present time we operate on Tuesday and Thursday Mornings.

Please Call **856-767-1854 x.247**, for bus reservation.

As always, we accommodate requests for trips to our local Banks, Post Office, Library, Voorhees Boscovs, County Store, Berlin Township Municipal Building, and other local points of interest.

We hope to see you soon and please leave the Driving to us!!

If you need to speak to the Municipal Coordinator on Aging, Please call Terry Vandegrift at 856-767-1854 x. 247

TIMES ARE TOUGH.... IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?

Food Stamps

(NJ SNAP)
(856) 225-5143
or apply online at:
www.NJSnap.org

Energy Assistance

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
Universal Service Fund (USF)
www.energyassistance.nj.gov
or call Toll Free
(USF) 1-866-240-1347
(LIHEAP) 1-800-510-3102
Seniors and Disabled
call for Lifeline Utility Assistance Program
1-800-792-9745

www.NJHelps.com

NJHelps is a free and easy guide for you to determine what programs and assistance for which you and your family may be eligible. NJHelps will tell you where to go for help and what to bring with you, after you have answered a few basic questions. NJHelps can also provide you with contact information and links to valuable resources available throughout the State.

NJ SHARE

Provides relief to people not eligible for other assistance. Call Toll Free 1-866-NJSHARE

Housing and Other Assistance

NJ211 for help with housing and other personal needs
Dial 2-1-1 or 877-652-1148

FREE RABIES CLINIC

January 21, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Berlin Township Municipal Building
135 Route 73 South
West Berlin, NJ 08091



PET LICENSING REQUIRED!

You are required by State Law and Municipal Ordinance to License your Dog/Cat(s). Licensing may be obtained at the Clerk's by January 31, 2012
Office located at the Berlin Township Municipal Building.
All pets MUST have valid proof of rabies vaccination to receive a license. (Valid through Nov. 1st of the current licensing year.

Please view our website www.berlintwp.com to review the new Ordinance limiting the number of pets a resident can have.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The Fire Department is hard at work again this year. As of this newsletter, the Department has answered over 500 calls for service. The Department is still staffed by an all volunteer contingent. The Department has expanded its shared services with the Berlin Boro and Waterford Twp. Fire Departments, with increased assistance on fire calls, cross-training, and cross-covering, where Firefighters from each Town assist at each other's Stations. The Chiefs are constantly looking for more ways to better serve the three Towns.

The Fire Department wants to remind everyone that as winter fast approaches be mindful and cautious of your home heating systems. If your systems haven't been inspected or serviced recently, please do so, as clogged filters or chimneys could easily start a fire.

The Holidays will also soon be upon us, and when decorating, be cautious of the use, or overuse of extension cords. These cords have been found to start fires in several different ways. Frayed ends, cut insulation, or cords wound tightly in a circle, all have been found to have started fires.

The Department also asks that anyone with a fire hydrant on or near your property to please clear away any snow that accumulates on or around it. This assists the Firefighters with easily locating and using the hydrant in the event of an emergency.

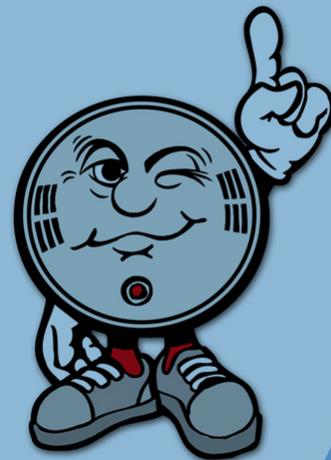
If anyone would like to become a volunteer Firefighter, please visit our website, www.westberlinfire.com or stop by the Station on the first or third Wednesday nights at 7pm. The firefighters train on these nights, come by and see what firefighting is all about.

From all the Members of West Berlin Fire – Rescue, Have a Happy Holiday Season.



SMOKE DETECTORS

Please remember to check to insure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Please change the batteries if necessary. If you are a Senior or Disabled, please call the fire department for assistance.





PROMOTION

Congratulations to Officer Gary Sheehan who was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Township of Berlin Police Department on November 1, 2011.

RECOGNITION

At the Mayor and Council meeting on October 24, 2011, Mayor and Council honored Robert E. Bray for the outstanding Veteran's Memorial Display that he built and currently maintains on Haddon Avenue. This moment is a great tribute to all of our Veteran's.



MEMORIAL DEDICATION TO ARTHUR OPPMANN

Mayor and Council honored Arthur Oppmann's family with an easel in dedication to his many years of service on the Berlin Township Planning and Zoning Board.



EMS UPDATES

As 2011 comes to a close, Berlin EMS has continued to see an increase in the number of emergency calls we have responded to again this year.

From January 1st 2011 through September 30th 2011 our department was dispatched to a total of 1586 emergency calls.

There were 621 in Berlin Township, 728 in Berlin Borough and an additional 237 calls for mutual assistance to the surrounding communities.

We continued to participate in out reach programs such as the fire prevention nights in Berlin Township, Berlin Borough and Voorhees Township as well as a Ambulance tour and safety demonstration for the students of The Carousel Academy of Learning in Berlin Borough. Some of our members and their children formed a team to participate in fundraiser walk for breast cancer awareness at the Berlin Borough fall festival (see photo).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our residents and businesses who donated to our annual fund drive. Your tax deductible donations help off set the cost of items such as training, uniforms and equipment.

Any resident or business that is interested in out reach programs such as CPR training, Ambulance tours can call (856) 753-0808 for additional information.

Have a safe and happy holiday season and as always please keep our military personnel in your thoughts!



WHEN YOUR CAR'S LEAKING OIL ON THE STREET, REMEMBER IT'S NOT JUST LEAKING OIL ON THE STREET.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean. So what can you do? Recycle used oil at certified facilities and maintain your vehicle to prevent leaks.

www.cleanwaterNJ.org



Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner
NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Thanks to the Washington Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

WHEN YOUR PET GOES ON THE LAWN,
REMEMBER IT DOESN'T JUST GO ON THE LAWN.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean. So what can you do? Properly dispose of your pet's waste by flushing it down the toilet or by placing it in a bag and throwing it in the trash.

www.cleanwaterNJ.org



Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner
NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Thanks to the Washington Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

WHEN YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY, REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST WASHING YOUR CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean. So what can you do? Take your car to a car wash where the water gets treated and recycled.

www.cleanwaterNJ.org



Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner
NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Thanks to the Washington Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.

WHEN YOU'RE FERTILIZING THE LAWN,
REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST FERTILIZING THE LAWN.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains and directly into our lakes, rivers and the ocean. So what can you do? Follow the directions on the fertilizer bag, do not apply before it rains and use only when necessary.

www.cleanwaterNJ.org



Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner
NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Thanks to the Washington Department of Ecology, King County, and the cities of Bellevue, Seattle and Tacoma.



**Berlin Township
Mayor & Council
In Cooperation With
P.E.A.C.E.**

**Invite You To The
20TH ANNUAL
HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING
DECEMBER 9th, 2011**

7:00 P.M.

**at the
Berlin Township Municipal Building**

**Come visit the LIVE
NATIVITY and listen to
CHOIRS from our
surrounding churches and
schools. Let's not forget our
special guest appearance by
SANTA and Mrs. CLAUS,
and enjoy
REFRESHMENTS in our
WINTER
WONDERLAND.**



MAYOR

PHYLLIS MAGAZZU

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CHRISTOPHER T. MORRIS

COUNCIL MEMBERS

MARION BODANZA

THOMAS DIGANGI

JEROME MCINTOSH

*****ECRWSS*****
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MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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WEST BERLIN, NJ 08091

PHONE

856-767-1854

FAX

856-768-6613

WEB

WWW.BERLINTWP.COM

Join Us For Our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

December 9, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Berlin Township Municipal Building

We are welcoming family, friends, organizations and businesses to participate by creating a holiday ornament to be placed on our holiday tree, the night of the tree lighting. Help create a tradition and a sense of community by including your holiday ornament for all to enjoy.

