



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

This being our first newsletter for 2013, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy New Year. It remains my honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor, and I promise to continue to work very hard to represent all of you to the best of my ability. It truly is a great town, with many, many great people that I and the rest of the governing body are so proud to be part of.

I would like to take the opportunity of the Mayor's Message this month to introduce to you our Vision Plan of Berlin Township that was first presented at our Berlin Township Reorganization meeting in January.

- Continue to maintain our designation as one of the Top Ten Financially Sound Municipalities in the State of New Jersey.
- Continue to maintain the top notch level of municipal services (Police, Public Works and Municipal/Financial Administration) our residents have appreciated for many years.
- Continue to maintain an open and transparent form of municipal government where our residents feel comfortable and respected when dealing with municipal officials.
- Continue to recognize and celebrate the contributions and heritage of the Berlin Township Senior Citizens, Veterans, Minorities, Volunteers, Good Neighbors and the Business Community.
- Continue to stand up and advocate for our fair share from the County, State and Federal Governments.
- Continue to provide a decent level of pay and benefits to our municipal employees who proudly serve our citizens on the front line each and every day and deserve to be treated fairly in their employment contracts while also keeping in mind the needs, wants and financial burdens of the residents of Berlin Township.
- Continue to seek private sector or shared service opportunities to utilize the open space in the Town Hall in an effort to offset the costs associated with operating the facility.
- Continue to publish in-house and regularly distribute a low cost but high quality Township newsletter so that all residents can continue to be informed of Township / community business, events and special recognition opportunities.
- Continue to focus on controlling municipal taxes and spending, share more services to cut costs, work on promoting local businesses to attract good jobs and do our best to bring our community back together.
- Continue pursuing the sale of the property on Bate Avenue where the old town hall used to be located. The highest and best use of this property would most likely be residential building lots upon which some nice new homes could be built.
- Continue pursuing the possible merger of the John McPeak Library with the School Library located within the Dwight D. Eisenhower School Building on Grove Avenue. This could result in a net savings to the Township budget while increasing the hours and services of the existing school library. The current library building would be sold to a private entity while the adjacent playground would be maintained and improved.
- Continue to expand the usage of the Township website in an effort to keep our residents informed on the services and news of our community and also implementing an informational line that will be available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.
- Continue to operate and promote such unique and worthwhile programs like the Fur Alert Program which has witnessed some success for our residents.
- Continue to pursue the development of a low cost low maintenance Dog Park in Berlin Township enabling interested residents to bring their dogs to exercise and socialize with other dogs if interested.
- Continue our annual Holiday Food Drive which this year provided for over 100 needy families in Berlin Township with the help and cooperation of the West Berlin Fire Department, Berlin Township Schools and the Berlin Township Police Department.
- Continue to maintain our Township road infrastructure, storm sewers, parks and playgrounds to the best of our ability and within reasonable annual capital budget amounts.
- Continue to have joint working meetings with our School Board to discuss shared services and other ways to cut costs to our residents.
- Continue to have meetings with our neighboring towns of Berlin Boro, Waterford Township, Pine Hill and Clementon comprised of the Mayors, Police Chiefs and Public Works Directors to foster open dialog between the entities.

Council and I are very proud of the Vision we have for our community and will carry-on and enhance many of the programs that have already been in effect and continue to come up with more creative ideas to help keep taxes stable and still provide programs and services that enable the quality of life that our residents have grown accustomed to and deserve.

COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

Candle Light Vigil



Berlin Township along with Berlin Borough held a candlelight prayer vigil in memory of the Sandy Hook Elementary School students and educators, whose lives were taken and their families in Newtown, Conn. All churches were represented, the ambulance, the police, fire departments and residents from both towns came out to show respect for the lives lost.

Newtown held all the funerals before Christmas for the 20 young students and six educators gunned down on Dec. 14. At our candlelight vigil, the name of each of them was read aloud by the Mayors of both towns, each followed by a moment of silence for prayers to be offered.

A crowd of about 400 people gathered outside and around the gazebo at our Luke Avenue Sports complex to pray for the Sandy Hook Elementary victims and their families.

As words of comfort were given by the clergy of our local churches, some put an arm around their loved one's shoulders, comforting the sniffles which could be heard throughout the crowd.

"Ana M. Marquez-Greene ... Dylan Hockley ... Dawn Hochsprung ... Madeleine F. Hsu ... Catherine V. Hubbard ..."

Each person became lost in their own thoughts. Some parents may have began thinking of their own children, some of whom attended the service.

"Chase Kowalski ... Jesse Lewis ... James Mattioli ... Grace McDonnell ... Anne Marie Murphy ..."

Although probably no one in our town personally knew a single name on the list, more prayers were offered for each of them, their families and even the entire town in mourning in Connecticut.

"Emilie Parker ... Jack Pinto ... Noah Pozner ... Caroline Previdi ... Jessica Rekos ..."

Prayers were also offered for those families with someone suffering with a mental illness. There are many afraid a loved one's illness could lead to a personal tragedy, not even one of the magnitude caused by Adam Lanza at Sandy Hook Elementary.

"Avielle Richman ... Lauren Rousseau ... Mary Sherlach ... Victoria Soto ... Benjamin Wheeler ... Allison N. Wyatt ..."

With the list of names read, Pastor June of the United Wesley Church reminded those in attendance to love their loved ones and provide forgiveness. She asked them to help those in the community who have never had a chance to know God and his love.

"We may not be able to go into our schools and pray," Paster June said. "But we need to cover our schools with prayer."

A poem by an unknown author titled "A Field Trip" was also read by Mayor Magazzu. It reminded the 400 or so people in attendance that the 20 small children who died that day are in heaven and there are people coming to God for answers. Throughout the service songs were sung. It was a cold, wintry night and the families in attendance huddled together with the candles, each person held flickering in the wind.

Holiday Community Food Drive



Berlin Township Mayor & Council are happy to report that our 1st Annual Season of Giving Holiday Food Drive was a success due to the generosity of the residents that were able to contribute from our great little community. Through the cooperative efforts of all involved, our 2012 Holiday Food Drive helped brighten the holiday for over 100 Berlin Township families in need.

Holiday Tree Lighting



DOING MORE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A NEW TERM, "SWEARING IN".....



Mayor Magazzu swears in Councilman Jerome McIntosh at the 2013 Annual Regorganization meeting in January.



Mayor Magazzu swears in Councilman Frank Epifanio at the 2013 Annual Regorganization meeting in January.

Photo Right: Swearing in the officers of the Camden County Mayor's Association - Mayor John J. Ward of the Borough of Audubon, Mayor Phyllis Jeffries Magazzu, Mayor Michael Mignogna of Voorhees, and Mayor Michael Blunt of Chesilhurst, being sworn in by Senator Donald Norcross



OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARDS



Mayor and Council Present an Outstanding Citizen Award to Mike McGee as the recipient of the 2012 Presidents Award from the West Berlin Fire Department.



Mayor and Council Present an Outstanding Citizen Award to Hank Birkenheuer Jr. on his selection as Fire Fighter of the Year for 2012.

Pitching in for Berlin Township...

After a couple of brutal winter storms with high winds and rain blowing sideways, it's time to pull together and focus on cleaning up our streets and neighborhoods. To do this, Mayor and Council are seeking interested volunteers, youth or church groups as well as high school students looking for local projects to gain valuable community service time or any other individuals that see the trash and debris out there in the streets like we do and want to do something about it.

It's simple, just call the Town Hall (856) 767-1854 x.212 and let us know your name and contact information or send an email to Councilwoman Marion Bodanza at marionbodanza@gmail.com and she will get back in touch with you a couple of weeks before a clean up day is being planned. We will supply gloves, trash bags and plenty of work! Clean ups will most likely be set up on Saturdays from 10am until 2pm but if you can only help out for a portion of the time we will gladly welcome you or your group for whatever amount of time you have available.

Berlin Township works best when we all pitch in together!!

Thank you in advance for caring about our community.



Sustainable Jersey Initiative

Mayor Phyllis Magazzu, Council President Chris Morris and Councilman Frank Epifanio recently attended an event to learn more about the Sustainable Jersey Initiative and how it might work to the benefit of Berlin Township.

Residents interested in learning more about our Sustainable Berlin Township Initiative are encouraged to contact Councilman Epifanio at (856) 767- 1854 x. 212 or send him an e-mail at frankeppy@aol.com.

July 4th already? News from the Inter-Community Celebration Association.....



It may still be winter but not to us, planning for this years' July 4th festivities has already begun. The parade and fireworks will be on Thursday, July 4th with a raindate of Saturday, July 6th. The parade will begin at 9am from the West Berlin Firehall on Haddon Ave. We are targeting to have our website www.berlinicca.org updated by mid-March with pageant information, links to forms and emails. Please check back often. We are planning on having a house decorating contest this year so get those creative juices flowing. Further information will be posted on the website and in the I.C.C.A. home mailer that comes out in early June. You can reach us at ICCAgeneralacct4@gmail.com with any questions or comments. If you own a business in town (or for that matter any other town) and want to make sure that you are represented in our ad book, send us an email and we will make sure to get you the necessary information.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATES

NOTICES FOR COLLECTION OF LEAVES, VEGETATION AND SWEEPING OF STREETS

Anticipate notification for the performance of these tasks are available through the following sources:

1. township website (www.Berlintwp.com) click on "current residents" then "calendar"
2. by calling the Township Municipal Building at 856-767-1854 and following prompts for Public Works updates or direct extension 246 for the information hotline.
3. placement of signs, throughout the collection and sweeping routes, the week before the

Spring Season Leaf Collection

Please place leaves in loose piles, behind the curb, NOT in the street. Do not mix any other vegetative or foreign materials with the leaves. Do not place leaves in bags. The leaves will be collected with the vacuum equipment only during the following weeks, weather permitting:

Tuesday's Route - week of April 8, 2013
 Wednesday's Route - week of April 15, 2013
 Thursday's Route - week of April 22, 2013

Please place your leaves out at the beginning of your designated week to ensure their collection.

Street Sweeping

Street Sweeping will begin on Tuesday's route the week of March 18, Wednesday's route on March 25 and Thursday's route on April 2, weather permitting. Please park all vehicles, off-street, during the week of sweeping in your area, so the entire street can be cleaned.

Sewer Problems

If you are experiencing a sewer blockage or slow draining plumbing fixtures, in your house, please contact the Township hotline at 856-767-1854 or go to the Township website for tips for assistance in diagnosing and removing the cause of the clog or slow plumbing drain.

Please make sure that the sewer cleanout cap, which is typically behind the curb or edge of pavement of the street, is not damaged or missing. If so, please make the necessary repairs to prevent potential tripping hazards and blockages of the sewer lateral by earth and foreign materials, which may fall through the opening of the cleanout.

Vegetation Collection

Vegetation is collected every Monday, unless it is a holiday, in which it is collected on the Friday of that week.

Please note that branches must be tied in bundles, not exceeding 4 feet in length and weighing less than 50 pounds. Clippings and rakings shall be placed in cans, DO NOT place these materials in bags. Tree parts shall not exceed 4 inches in diameter and bundled with the length not exceeding 4 feet and the bundle weighing less than 50 pounds.

Please do not park vehicles in front of the vegetation, which has been placed at the curbside for collection.

We recommend if you have a large quantity of brush, that you consider requesting the delivery of a Public Works truck to your residence for your loading of the brush and tree parts.

Please Call 856-767-1854 x.227 to schedule a date for the truck to be dropped off at your residence.

Receptacles/Containers

Please keep in mind that trash receptacles/containers cannot exceed 40 gallons and must have durable handles and covered with a lid. The weight of the containers and contents cannot exceed 50 pounds.

Please use the Township issued 20 gallon recycling container for your recyclables. if you need a recycling container please call 856-767-1854, extension 227 or leave a message. We will deliver the recycling container to your residence.

County Collection Events

Household Hazardous Waste

Camden County is accepting, from residents only, specific automotive fluids, fuels and batteries; paint related products, household cleaners, pesticides, personal care, home and hobby items.



The following are the scheduled collection dates and locations for 2013:

MARCH 23	- CHERRY HILL PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX 1 Perina Boulevard, Cherry Hill	(Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
APRIL 20	- COLLINGSWOOD PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX 713 N. Atlantic Ave. Collingswood	(Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
MAY 18	- ATCO PARKING AREA AT ATCO & RARITAN AVES.	(Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
JUNE 22	- GLOUCESTER TWP. - CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE PARKING AREA - TBD	(Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
SEPTEMBER 21	- PENNSAUKEN SANITARY LANDFILL 9600 River Road, Pennsauken	(Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
OCTOBER 19	- LINDENWOLD - CAMDEN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX 2311 Egg Harbor Road, Lindenwold	(Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Electronics Recycling Events

Camden County is sponsoring collection, from residents only, of electronics, such as , computers, laptops, keyboards, mice, monitors, printers, modems, scanners, VCRs, DVD players, tape players, TVs, radios, stereo equipment, typewriters, answering machines and telephones.

The following are the scheduled collection dates and locations for 2013:

March 9 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	--- LINDENWOLD - CAMDEN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX 2311 Egg Harbor Road, Lindenwold
APRIL 27 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	--- WINSLOW - WINSLOW PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX 125 South Route 73, Winslow
JUNE 22 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	--- GLOUCESTER TWP. - CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE PARKING LOT (TBD)
OCTOBER 26 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	--- LINDENWOLD - CAMDEN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX 2311 Egg Harbor Road, Lindenwold

WHAT TO BRING:

Automotive	Paint Thinners
Antifreeze	Primer
Brake Fluid	Pruning Paint
Car Batteries	Resins
Car Wax and Polish	Shellac
Carburetor Cleaner	Solvent-Based Paint
Degreasers	Spray Paint
Diesel Fuel	Stains
Engine Starting Fluid	Turpentine
Gasoline	Varnish
Grease	Water Sealer
Lead-Acid Batteries	Household Cleaners
Power Steering Fluid	Aluminum Cleaners
Transmission Fluid	Bleach
Paint-Related Products	Cesspool Cleaners
Creosote	Disinfectants
Driveway Sealer	Drain Opener
Epoxy	Dry-Cleaning Solvents
Linseed Oil	Floor Wax
Oil-Based Paint	Furniture Polish
Paint Strippers	Lye
Oven Cleaner	Metal Polish
Rug & Upholstery Cleaner	Fuels
Pesticides	Camping Fuel
Baygon	Kerosene
Chlordane	Lighter Fluid
Diazinon	Personal Care
Dursban	Fingernail Polish & Remover
DDT	Hair Coloring
Fertilizers	Hydrogen Peroxide
Flea Collars/Spray	Iodine
Fungicides	Mercury Thermometers
Herbicides	Home and Hobby
Insecticides	Chemistry Kits
Lindane	Cutting Oil
Malathion	Fluorescent bulbs
Moth Balls/Crystals	Glues and Adhesives
Mouse & Rat Poison	Gun Cleaning Solvents
Pyrethrins	Pool Chemicals
Strychnine	Propane Tanks
Stump Killer	Rock Salt
Weed Killer	
Wood Preservatives	

WHAT WE ACCEPT		
Answering Machines	Laptops	Stereo Equipment
Cables / Wires	Modems	Tape Players
Computers	Monitors	Telephones
DVD Players	Mouses	TVs
Fax Machines	Radios	Typewriters
Keyboards	Scanners / Printers	VCRs



PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tour of the station for Cub Scout Pack 55

The Berlin Township and Berlin Borough Police Departments partnered with Cub Scout Pack 55. The pack was given a tour of the Berlin Township Police station. The scouts participated in a question and answer session and were given an understanding of what it is like to be a public safety professional.

Conducted Energy Devices (Taser)

The Berlin Township Police Department is one of only a few departments within Camden County to have Officer's trained on the use of the Conducted energy devices (Taser). This tool will be carried by officers and can be used to reduce the risk of a physical altercation or injuries to Officers and perpetrators.

Helpful Hints when calling 911

The Berlin Township Police Department is always ready to answer your 911 call, but we need your help to make sure proper information is gathered and everyone is safe.

1. Stay calm, take a deep breath and try not to get excited. Any situation that requires 911 is an emergency. The dispatch knows this and will try to move things along quickly but under control.
2. Know the location of the emergency and the number you are calling from. Even though 911 centers have enhanced capabilities they are still required to confirm information so they may ask questions. If you are disconnected emergency crews know where you are and how to call you back.
3. Wait for the dispatcher to ask you questions and answer clearly and calmly. If you are in danger of assault the dispatcher will still need you to answer quietly mostly yes and no answers.
4. Let the dispatcher guide the conversation. They are typing the information into a computer and it may seem like it is taking forever. There is a good chance that emergency services are already on the way while you are still speaking to 911.
5. Follow directions. In some cases the call-taker will give you directions. Listen carefully, follow each step exactly.
6. Keep your eyes open, you may be asked to describe victims, suspects, vehicles, or other parts of the scene.
7. Do not hang up the call until directed to do so by the dispatcher.

Please understand that Berlin Township police is dispatched by Camden County communications center, Call (856) 783-4900 for non emergency.

Tip E-mail Line:

You can e-mail any crime tips directly to the Police Department. The tips e-mail address is tips@berlintwppd.com. This e-mail can be used for any type of tip.



Cub Scout Pack 55 on tour of the Township Police Station

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Board of Fire Commissioners and the members of the West Berlin Fire Rescue would like to thank all those residents who came out to participate in the 2013 Fire District election on Saturday 2-16-13. As a result of the voting, Commissioners Kevin Johnson and Joseph Jackson were reelected to the board for another three year term each.

The 2013 Fire District budget totaling \$505,700.00 was approved. This budget pays off all the money owed on the last fire truck purchased in 2007. This payment pays the loan off three years early. Your Board of Fire Commissioners work very hard to keep the tax rate as low as possible and still provide the best fire protection possible to you the resident. The fire tax rate for 2012 was \$.131 per \$100 and the rate for 2013 is \$.135 per \$100, which will result in an \$5.30 increase for the average valued home in our town.

Also approved was the bond issue for \$2,900,000.00, to be used to repair and add onto the existing fire house building. The project will rebuild and or support the 100 year old section of the building. The additional space will provide your all volunteer fire department with the facilities and room they need for many, many years to come. The new slopped roofs will eliminate the need for more of the repairs that were done over the past several years.

Additional information on the project can be obtained by calling the Fire District office at 856-767-1839 and leave a message which will be answered as quickly as possible.

Lastly, the Board of Fire Commissioners are planning to include an Open Public portion at their next two meeting nights on Thursday March 21st and Thursday April 18th to review the project details with any interested residents. Fire Commission meetings start at 7:00 PM.

Interested residents can feel free to stop by the Fire House on Haddon Avenue on either night.



Rendering of expansion/repair of the Berlin Township Fire District No. 1 on Haddon Avenue by Walter A. Olt - Architect.



Help Conquer Childhood Cancers!

The members of the West Berlin Fire Rescue are hosting a St. Baldrick's event at the Fire House on Saturday March 23, 2013 from 12 noon to 6pm. Members of the company are raising funds to be used to further childhood cancer research. The participating members will also have their heads shaved to show their support for the children suffering from cancer. Come out and support your firefighters.



BERLIN INTER-COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Park Avenue and White Horse Pike
P.O. Box 406
Berlin, New Jersey 08009
(856) 753-0808 • Fax (856) 753-7261

On behalf of our members we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the residents and local businesses as well as our Mayor and Council members for their continues support in 2012.

In 2012 our department was dispatched to a total of 2329 emergency calls. There were 854 in Berlin Township, 1055 in Berlin Borough and an additional 420 mutial aid calls to the surrounding communities.

Our deparment took part in many activities during the year including "fire prevention" activities at the West Berlin and Berlin Fire companies, Berlin Township and Berlin Borough days, Home Depot's annual safety day, the annual 4th of July parade and festivities in the Berlin Park. We also continue to work with the Zone 4 Police Tactical Team when requested.

As always we would like to thank the residents who continued to support our annual fund drive again this year. Your donations are used for such things as the training of our members, uniforms and equipment.

We continue to offer community CPR training and safety awareness classes for our residents and businesses, additional information may be obtained by calling us at (856) 753 - 0808.

2013 OFFICERS

CAPTAIN- LOU DeMARCO
LIEUTENANT- JENNIFER SOMERS
VICE PRESIDENT- ANNA BEHNKE
FINANCIAL SECRETARY- JOAN MADARA

ASSISTANT CAPTAIN- CRAIG FALLSTICK
PRESIDENT- CRAIG FALLSTICK
SECRETARY- CYNDI OBERLE



Left to right: Captiain Lou Demarco, Council President Christopher Morris, Berlin Borough Mayor John Armano and President Craig Fallstick presenting certificate of appreciation at the annual reorganization dinner/awards ceremony. Photo courtesy of Joan Madara.



Left to right: Anna Behnke, Craig Fallstick, Council President Christopher Morris, Captain Lou Demarco, Berlin Borough Mayor John Armano at the annual reorganization dinner/awards ceremony. Thank you to all of the members on behalf of Berlin Township for all that you do to save lives and make a positive difference in our community!

Black History Month Celebration



Berlin Township's own Kevonna Venable (right with guitar) and Leah Venable (left) provided a beautiful musical performance at the 3rd Annual Black History Exhibit. These young ladies are the daughters of Kevin and Jackie Venable and are going places for sure!!

Mayor and Council present a Proclamation to the Berlin Township Historical Association President Betsy Simpson and Vice President Floyd Riley at the 3rd Annual Black History Exhibit.



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, Wednesday 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 with the coordinator on aging, please call Terri Vandegrift at 856-767-1854 x.247

*Schedule is subject to change



MAYOR

PHYLLIS MAGAZZU

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CHRISTOPHER T. MORRIS

COUNCIL MEMBERS

MARION BODANZA

FRANK EPIFANIO

JEROME MCINTOSH

*****ECRWSS*****

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
WEST BERLIN, NJ 08091

Our newsletter is proudly designed in house and then sent out for reproduction to the lowest bidder which has proven to drastically reduce the cost while enabling us to have a good quality informative communication tool for the residents of our great little town!!

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MUNICIPAL BUILDING

135 ROUTE 73 SOUTH
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856-767-1854

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856-768-6613

WEB

WWW.BERLINTWP.COM

INTRODUCING THE NEW 24-7 INFORMATION HOTLINE!

Here at the Township we are always trying to find new ways to help improve communication between the Township and our residents. We have developed a new **Information Hotline** program as another platform to help you get the most up to date information. **To call the new Information Hotline dial:**

(856) 767-1854 x. 246



This new **Information Hotline** is available 24-7 and will be provide you with the most up to date Public Works, Township Events and Rain Dates, Changes to Collection Schedules, and any other helpful information that may have changed. If you have any questions regarding any of these topics, try the hotline, you may just find the answer you were looking for!

As always, if you have any questions or comments you can always call the Township at (856) 767- 1854 and you will be directed to the best department to help you.