

# Berlin Township

## NEWSLETTER



Summer 2013

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### **Spring is in the air and there is a "Freeze" in Berlin Township**

Berlin Township realizes the importance of sharing information and keeping residents informed. As Mayor, I try to utilize the Mayor's Message so that you are kept up to date and informed on Township news and happenings.

First and foremost, at our April 8, 2013 meeting, Mayor and Council presented a municipal budget that will not increase the taxes for the residents of Berlin Township and is well below the mandated 2-percent cap that the State has imposed for municipalities. Yes, we are excited to say there will be a **freeze** on taxes for 2013!!! With this budget, there will be no jobs lost and still preserve the high-level of services our residents have grown accustomed to and deserve. We focused on meeting our community's needs and making smart decisions that allow us to work more efficiently and effectively in the future. Our budget also reflects a strong commitment to shared services. Ambulance, Engineering, Police services, Public Works, and Animal Control are just several of our ways that sharing services can save money and enable better services to our town. Continuing our commitment, at our May 13, 2013 meeting, an agreement with the towns of Waterford, Pine Hill and Berlin Borough to share equipment and man power during an emergency was approved and then signed. These shared services strengthen our community and allow us to use every dollar to benefit our residents.

For the second time in a year, Standard & Poor's Rating Services has revised our outlook on its long-term rating on Berlin Township's debt from Stable to Positive, based on the Township's improving financial position coupled with the township's continually strong economic condition. I am proud to say that we were mentioned in a Wall Street Journal article for being one of few towns in these tough economic times to improve our bond rating while many towns have seen theirs downgraded.

I would strongly suggest, if you have not already done so, to enroll in our new instant alert notification system. This system will not only be used in cases of emergencies, but also to inform our residents of changes of trash collection, Township event scheduling and any other information that is important to be able to notify our residents.

In addition to our instant alert system, Berlin Township has implemented a new informational hot-line. Calling this hot-line will give you any and all up to date information on Township news and events. To access the hot-line, dial the Township at 856-767-1854 and at the prompt, dial extension 246

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that as Memorial Day has just passed and many of us will have kicked off Summer 2013 with a picnic or trip to the beach, it is important to take a quiet moment of thanks for all the service men and women who have given their lives in service of this great country.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me. My cell # is 856-207-8484.

Mayor Phyllis Magazzu

# TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY



Very proud to honor the Senior Citizens of Berlin Township!! They have done so much for us it's only fitting that we recognize and honor them during Older Americans Month!! Of particular note is Mrs. Leotti (pictured holding the plaque) as she was recently honored by the BTAA during the Joe Cruz field dedication. The snack bar is now named after Mrs. Leotti for all she's done for the youth in Berlin Township!!



Mayor Magazzù being sworn in as Vice President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. The New Jersey Conference of Mayors ( NJCM) is the oldest and largest statewide Mayors organization in the country. The NJCM represents the interest of Mayors to State and Federal legislatures and administration, with the intent to reflect the will of the people of the state of New Jersey and improve their quality of life.

Berlin Township has one of the best bus drivers around. Thanks and Congrats to Miss Vande (Terri Vandegrift in the purple shirt) who proudly drives one of our school buses as well as our Senior Citizen bus! She is simply the best and very deserving of the praise she received!!



## ZONING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

### ZONING PERMITS

With the changing of the season, outdoor projects have taken off. Please check with the Berlin Township Zoning Office prior to any type of construction or installation, to see if a Zoning Permit is required. Applications for a Zoning Permit shall be made in writing on the form supplied by the Township of Berlin, and the same shall be filed with the Zoning Officer, together with a current plot plan or survey drawn to scale, showing the existing conditions.

Types of applications that require a Zoning Permit are:

Driveways, Fences, Decks, Sheds, Additions, Pools, Patios, Solar... more

FAQ: Do I need a Zoning Permit if I am replacing an existing fence?  
ANS: Yes

FAQ: Do I need a Zoning Permit if I am replacing a concrete driveway?  
ANS: Yes

FAQ: Do I need a Zoning Permit if I am replacing an existing deck?  
ANS: Yes

For any further assistance or questions, please call,

Robert Martin  
Berlin Township Zoning Officer  
(856) 767-1854 ext.213

### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Be a good neighbor. Please keep your property tidy. Please no debris, broken fences, and lawns cared for.

Please do not feed feral cats. This attracts them to your property and your neighbors may not appreciate the new visitors. We do our best to control the feral cat population. Please do your part by not feeding them as they are considered wild.

With the summer heat on it's way, it is always a good idea to check on elderly neighbors. It is also suggested if you are able to consider rolling up your sleeves and giving a hand to your elderly neighbors that may need the extra hand with yard work, etc. Offer the help, it may be an hour of your time and makes a world of difference for them!

For questions or comments please call,

Joshua Shellenberger,  
Property Maintenance/Animal Control  
856-767-1854 ext. 223



Welcome to Berlin Township Allstate Insurance! Pictured with Mayor Magazzu, Council President Morris and Councilwoman Bodanza is Camden County Freeholder Michelle Gentek. Our officials were present at the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening a couple of weeks ago of the new West Berlin Office.

# PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Berlin Twp. Police is pleased to introduce our new Police Officer Kenneth Barbagli. Ken came to us from the Lower Alloway Creek Police Department. Ken also served as a United States Marine for 5 years and was honorably discharged and obtained the rank of Sergeant. We are excited and welcome him into our ranks.

We would also like to congratulate Sgt. Joseph Colozzi on his retirement. Sgt. Colozzi served 25 years with the Berlin Twp. Police Department and we would like to thank him for his years of service and wish him luck on his retirement.



Welcome to Berlin Township Ken Barbagli our newest member of the Berlin Township Police Department. Patrolman Barbagli was officially sworn in at the Council Meeting by Mayor Phyllis Magazzu with most of the police force in the audience along with his family.

Berlin Twp. Police Detective Sergeant McVeigh, through the course of investigating a burglary of the Shell Gas Station, recovered evidence that through investigation and DNA linked an individual to the crime. DSGT. McVeigh interviewed the subject, obtained a full confession including naming his partner. DSGT. McVeigh interviewed the partner and obtained a second confession. Both subjects were charged with Burglary and Theft. DSGT. McVeigh is to be recognized for his outstanding police work.

The Berlin Twp. Police Department wants all residents to remain vigilant. If people or vehicles unknown to you are around your area or seem suspicious in any way, call 911. Let the police officers make contact with these people/vehicles to investigate why they are in the neighborhood. Doing this will reduce home and business burglaries in the town and help keep our neighborhood safe.

The Berlin Twp. Police Department would like to make you aware of a service that is being made available to all residents and businesses in Berlin Township. The service is called "INCASE" meaning, "in case of an emergency". The INCASE system allows first responding police officers to access emergency contact information at homes and businesses in our town. The system utilizes a barcode sticker that is affixed to the door frame of your home/business. The information is stored at a secure database at the South Jersey Technical Partnership (a function at Sterling High School), and can be obtained through the responding officer's smart phone. If there is an emergency at your home, the home of an elderly parent or relative, or your business and the responding officers finds no one to communicate with; the officer can scan your barcode and access your emergency barcode information. This is to only be used in an emergency situation. The barcode will contain the following information: the address of the property, the homeowner's name and emergency contact (cell/work), up to three emergency contact phone numbers, and any additional information you think we need to know ( medical emergency, hide a key location, ect..). If you would like to participate in this service and would like an "INCASE" barcode on your home/business, please fill out the attached participation card below and bring

it to the Berlin Township Municipal Building, (front entrance to the Township Clerk's office) with a one time \$6.00 fee. If you know someone who might be interested in "INCASE", they can pick up and complete the IN CASE information card at Berlin Township municipal building and you're the information will be added immediately.

If you have any questions about this service, feel free to call the Berlin Township Police Station's office phone at 856-767-5878 etc. 216. Remember, we are always here to help.

### INCASE Information:

Home/Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Homeowner Name and Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary contact name and #: \_\_\_\_\_

Third contact name and #: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: (medical emergency, hide a key location, ect..)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Berlin Township's Finest!! We've been through a lot together and through it all we've got a great group of dedicated professionals that have and will continue to do their best for the citizens we serve! Thanks for your service during Police Appreciation Week / Month and keep up the good work!!



# 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

We would like to thank all of the residents and businesses that took the time to vote us "One of the Best" EMS services in south jersey, in the recent Courier- Post survey! It means allot to receive your feedback!

2013 has started off on a busy note for our Department, we were dispatched to 778 emergency calls. There were 351 in Berlin Borough 281 in Berlin Township and an additional 146 calls for mutual assistance to our surrounding communities.

Remember our department is always available to assist our local groups and associations with CPR training as well as tours of our building and Ambulances, interested parties may contact Captain DeMarco at (856) 753-0808.

We look forward to a safe and accident free summer and remind our local children to wear their helmets while biking, roller blading and skateboarding, if our crew spots them, they will be rewarded with a special treat!!

Have a great summer and continue to remember the brave men & women fighting for our freedom! Support our troops!!

### 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



Outstanding Service Awards for 2012 presented to the Berlin Inter-Community Ambulance Association. Each of the recipients went above and beyond in serving the community!

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## RECENT UPDATES TO SERVE YOU BETTER!

### Here for you DAY and NIGHT!

Please take advantage of our new information hotline:

**856-767-1854 x. 246**

for any recent updates regarding Public Works and other town updates, or visit our website at

**www. Berlintwp.com**

to view the updated Public Works page or Calendar

or call 856-767-1854 x.227 during office hours for any Public Works questions.

### LARGE AMOUNT OF BRUSH? GET YOUR VERY OWN TRUCK!

Do you have a large quantity of brush and/or logs?

Consider reserving a Township Truck for drop off to your home for your loading.

Please call 856-767-1854 x.227

This is a unique service we offer to our residents!

### SCAVENGING IS ILLEGAL

Please report any and all scavenging of recyclable materials, appliances, electronics, etc. to the Police Department at 856-767-5878 or the Township staff at 856-767-1854 x. 227or 245.

Please try to take notice of vehicle type, color, license plate if possible and any other helpful information to best help track down this illegal activity.

### HELP PROTECT YOUR PARKS/FACILITIES!

There has been recent vandalism at OUR parks. Please, as a neighbor, keep your eye out for suspicious activity!

When using the facilities please report any damage that has occurred so we can investigate/repair any damage that has occurred promptly

Hopefully, by reporting the vandalism will help to deter any vandals, knowing that we are watching them!

### TAKE NOTE CHANGES HAVE OCCURED

- Vegetation will not be collected in plastic bags outside of the containers. Please do not bag your vegetation and please place in proper receptacles.
- Proper receptacles cannot exceed 40 gallons and must have handles and a lid, maximum weight of 50 pounds.
- Please keep trash in containers, separate from those containers, that contain vegetation.
- furniture, appliances, vehicle batteries, motor oil (in sealed containers), antifreeze(sealed containers), tires and electronics can all be placed at the curb on your scheduled trash day.

### ANY CHANGES.....

WWW. BERLINTWP.COM TOWNSHIP CALENDAR, THE INSTANT ALERT PROGRAM, AND THE INFORMATION HOTLINE WILL HAVE ANY SCHEDULE CHANGES REGARDING TRASH AND OR COLLECTION EVENTS. PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE RESOURCES TO STAY NOTIFIED, WE DO OUR BEST TO KEEP YOU INFORMED!





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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856-767-1854

FAX

856-768-6613

WEB

[WWW.BERLINTWP.COM](http://WWW.BERLINTWP.COM)

## POLLING PLACE CHANGE IN BERLIN TOWNSHIP

The Camden County Board of Elections has officially changed the Polling Place for Berlin Township effective this Primary and General Election 2013.

### **New Polling Place for ALL Districts:**

Berlin Township Municipal Building  
135 Route 73 South (Rt 73 & Day Ave)  
West Berlin, NJ 08091



This change is made in cooperation with the Berlin Township Police Department and the Berlin Township School District as the Town Hall location enables us to provide for a more secure location especially in light of the recent school tragedies at Sandy Hook Connecticut shootings.

Please make a note of this change and don't forget to vote at Town Hall on Tuesday **June 4, 2013**.

Thank you, Mayor & Council