



Berlin Township

Newsletter

Summer—Fall 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

Message from the Mayor

Special points of interest:

- Launching of our [new website](#)
- The winners of this year's [bike decorating contest](#)
- [Walk about 2008](#)
- [Halloween Safety Tips](#)
- [Summer is here to stay all year round!](#)

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As many of you may have noticed with today's gas prices rising that using the web to perform everyday tasks from grocery shopping to banking really saves you time and money. Our goal here at Berlin Township is to do just that. We want to keep you informed as well as make it easier for you to access all the information you need as a new or current resident, business or visitor and to provide information to keep you legal, as well.

As you may have heard we are launching our [new website](#) that will have the capability to save you a trip or a call to the Township Clerk's office for most of your needs. Our new site will include:

- Current news generalized, as well as specified for new/ current residents, visitors and businesses
- Event coverage and photo galleries
- Every form will be downloadable for your convenience. In the future, our website will support on-line transactions and accept payments. Forms included will be: pet licensing, notary, business registrations, and many other

forms you may need to access for information on the Township's departments and your local schools.

Want to go out to dinner tonight? Need your oil changed? Now you can access a list of your local businesses, view a spotlighted existing business, or learn about a new business. New residents can get all the information, forms, locations and directions they need to have a fresh start in our township.

Having a yard sale or a church get together? Now you can make announcements on our community bulletin board.

We want you to stay connected and be a strong community, so, we will acknowledge the accomplishments of residents in our Town Spotlight section. Your grandfather turned 100, your child did exceptional in school, or a son or brother came home from the war? We want to know. You can contact us directly though an easy to use interactive feedback form where you can tell us your thoughts, news and suggestions.

We are currently taking advantage of the latest state of the art technical resources so that we can and make things as convenient as possible. Our future goal is to have you able to fill out the

Berlin Township

*“Rain or shine nothing
can stop Berlin
Township residents*

from showing their

colors on

Independence Day”

Winners of the July 4th 2008

Bike Decorating Contest



1st Place- Jacob Clark



2nd Place-Priscilla Merlino



3rd Place- Sophia Westfall

Message from the Mayor Cont.

form directly and pay fees online without ever having to leave your home.

Lastly, remember the Berlin Township website is newly designed and we would appreciate any feedback using the feedback form on the website, or return the form to the right to the municipal building concerning issues you may have noticed while using the website .

www.BerlinTwp.com

Website Feedback Form

Our Goal with the new website is to accurately inform you about your town, Please take a few minutes to give us some feedback and return to this form to the municipal building.

Was the site easy to navigate?

- YES
- NO
- Needs Improvement

Did the site help you with your inquiry?

- YES
- NO
- If no, Please explain right:

Comments:

State Police Demo for Law Enforcement Day

The Safety of your children is the highest of your concerns as it is the Local and State Police. The first Law Enforcement Day sent many important messages to the students of Overbrook. The ceremony of the day recognized Alumni of Overbrook who are now serving your community and state and informed the students of the dangers they face, the technology they have to help them face it and the rewards of being a police officer as a career.

A few technologies that the force seemed very proud of was their demonstration of their unmanned robotic bomb unit, showcased driving across the gym floor, a belated visit from their state helicopter for the students to explore.

Lastly, a demonstration of their k-9 force with their ability



Demonstration at Overbrook High School of their K-9 force and it's ability to detain a criminal.

to sniff out any suspicious materials, and detain criminals.

Overall, it was a very informative and fun day

for the students. Will law enforcement day become a tradition at Overbrook?

4th of July Recap

Rain or shine nothing can stop Berlin Township residents from showing their colors on Independence Day.

Thank you to all who participated in the 61st Annual Independence Day Celebration and Parade! The winners of this year's bike decorating contest sponsored by "The Bank" were in 1st place chugging along strong, conductor Jacob Clark. In 2nd place with an explosion of color was Priscilla Merlino. Sailing by in 3rd was Sophia Westfall paddling in her boat

for freedom. All Participants did a wonderful job and had a great ride! Festivities continued on at the park with the Crownings of the Miss and Little Miss ICCA winners of 2008. Congratulations to Miss Kelly Nixon and Little Miss Savannah Perry for 2008! As well as, 1st runner up for Miss ICCA Gabrielle Morris and 2nd runner up Ashley Leyden. Little Miss ICCA 1st runner up Megan Wisser and 2nd runner up Paige Sacco. We would like to also say what a wonderful

job Rocco Florentino did as Parade Marshall. Rocking the night the Fabulous Greaseband kept the beat going until the lead off of the fireworks! A special thanks to the ICCA Executive Committee, the Pagent Committee, The Rotary Club of Berlin, Girlscouts of Central & Southern NJ, Brownie Troop 557, Berlin Twp. and Berlin Boro Municipal Employees, and everyone else that brought this event together.

Mayor Recognized

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Mayor Phyllis Magazzu was sworn in as the President of the Camden County Mayor's Association.



Phyllis Magazzu receives Camden County Mayor of the Year Award and Mayor Millard Wilkinson of Berlin Borough received Camden County former Mayor of the Year Award at the reorganization of the Camden County Mayor's Association.

EMS Update

As the year quickly comes to an end, 2008 has again kept us on the move and our call volume has continued to increase. From January 1st until August 1st 2008 our Department was dispatched to a total of **969** emergency calls. There were **452** in Berlin Boro, **374** in Berlin twp. and an additional **143** calls for mutual assistance to the surrounding communities including Waterford, Pine Hill, Lindenwold, Winslow and Voorhees Township.

In addition to our normal day to day activities, other highlights included The Annual July 4th parade and fireworks in the Berlin Park, Home Depot's safety day, CPR classes for several local business groups, First Aid awareness for the staff of Berlin's "Camp long-a-coming, and providing mutual support to Winslow Township during their July 4th fireworks. Our annual "Helmet Safety"



campaign was held during the summer with the assistance of the Berlin Borough and Berlin Township Police departments. Children observed wearing their helmets while biking, roller blading or skate boarding were rewarded with ice cream compliments of Rita's in Berlin. This is a great way for our EMT's and local Police Officers to interact with our children and promote helmet safety. Keep in mind we do offer a "Junior Program" for local children between the ages of 16 and 18, for more information call (856) 753-0808

We would like to

thank all of our residents and businesses that continued to support our voluntary fund raiser, the funds raised offset the cost of items not covered by our municipal budget such as training and uniforms.

As we move closer to the start of a new year we continue to strive to provide our residents with the best pre-hospital care and continue to update our training and equipment. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! Please don't forget our troops, as they continue to fight for our freedom!!

"We would like to thank all of our residents and businesses that continued to support our voluntary fund raiser.."



Emergency

Police Department Updates

Above and Beyond

Continually showing support for the community that they serve, the **Berlin Township Police Association** again sponsored two scholarships for graduating 8th graders at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School.

The Association was also one of many sponsors of Overbrook High School's first **Project Graduation**. Project Graduation offers a fun, safe and alcohol free graduation party.

Suspicious Activity

Too often police officers arrive at the scene of a crime and a witness will report that they saw a suspicious car or person earlier and never called police. If you see something suspicious in your neighborhood, please, do not hesitate to call 9-1-1. All tips will remain anonymous.

The Berlin Township Police need your help in keeping our community safe.

Bicycle Helmets

The Berlin Township Police and the Berlin Intercommunity Ambulance Association want to remind all parents about the importance of wearing a bike helmet. Each year many bicyclists sustain head injuries when falling from their bikes. Please keep your child safe by insisting that your children or grandchildren always wear a bike helmet.



Identity Theft

The problem of identity theft continues grow throughout our nation. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has developed an informative program that can help protect you from identity theft. Stop by the Berlin Township Police headquarters to get a copy of the program or go online at idsafety.org.

In Case You've Forgotten

The Berlin Township Police still offer an unserviceable flag drop at headquarters. Dispose of your ripped, torn or worn American Flags in the proper and honorable method. The flags will only be accepted at headquarters.

Project ChildSafe is a program sponsored by the United States Department of Justice that provides **free gunlocks**. The purpose of the program is to ensure that no one, especially a child, is injured accidentally by a gun. The Berlin Township Police are proud participants in the program. Stop in the station and pick up your **free gunlock**.

The Berlin Township Police are still offering **FREE CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS**. The inspections are probably the best deal in town, because they're **FREE**. But more importantly they're a great way to make sure that your children are riding safely in your car. Call Patrolmen Gary Sheehan or Brian Lex at 767-5878 to schedule an appointment.

For information on **VIN etching** and crime prevention **home security inspections**, just call our office at 767-5878. **All these services are free!**

“The Berlin Township Police are still offering FREE CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS.”



Drunk Driving kills 18,000 Americans every year. This August the Berlin Township Police will participate in the “Over the Limit. Under Arrest” program sponsored by the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. This program highlights the problem of drunk driving and offers local police departments special funding for additional enforcement. Help keep our highways safe by reporting suspected drunk drivers.

PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE



Left: Berlin Township Chief Michael Hayden being sworn in as President of the NJ Chiefs Association by past President Joseph Batten .

Halloween Safety Tips

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Before Halloween

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet. Because a mask can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic and hypoallergenic makeup or a decorative hat as a safe alternative.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories, purchase only those with a label indicating they are flame resistant.
- Think twice before using simulated knives, guns or swords. If such props must be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Plan ahead to use only battery powered lanterns or chemical lightsticks in place of candles in decorations and costumes.
- Teach children their home phone number and to how call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free from any phone.
- Review with your children the principle of "Stop-Drop-Roll", should their clothes catch on fire.
- Openly discuss appropriate and inappropriate behavior at Halloween time.

Take extra effort to eliminate tripping hazards on your porch and walkway. Check around your property for flower pots, low tree limbs, support wires or garden hoses that may prove hazardous to young children rushing from house to house.

Before Nightfall on Halloween

- Plan and review with your children the route and behavior which is acceptable to you.
- Do not permit children to bicycle, roller-blade or skateboard.
- Agree on a specific time when Trick-or-Treaters must return home.
- Along with flashlights for all, older children and escorts should wear a wristwatch and carry coins for non-emergency phone calls.
- Remind all household drivers to remain cautious and drive slowly throughout the community. Adult partygoers should establish and reward a designated driver.

"TRICK OR
TREAT"

HOURS ARE

2PM-8PM

OCTOBER 31st



When Trick-or-Treating

- A Parent or responsible Adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Remind Your Trick-or-Treaters of the following:
 - By using a flashlight, they can see and be seen by others.
 - Stay in a group, walk slowly and communicate where you are going. Only trick-or-treat in well known neighborhoods at homes that have a porch light on.
 - Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
 - If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic.
 - Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
 - Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations. Always walk. Never run across a street.
 - Only cross the street as a group.
 - Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street.
 - Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will.
 - Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages that may be offered.
 - No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an Adult at home.
 - The Berlin Township Police should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.



Berlin Township

Library News



The Berlin Township John J. Mc Peak library is open Monday through Thursday from 1 pm until 8:15 pm, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am until 10:45 am, on Friday from 1 pm to 3:45 pm and Saturday from 10 am until 1:45 pm. We will be closed on Fridays from July 1st, through Labor Day weekend. If your library mate-

rial is due and it is after hours there is a drop box outside the library to leave material in. Please use the drop box whenever needed.

The Library has all the latest books on the bestseller lists. If you require other books, they may be ordered through Camden County library, and delivered to the

Township library.

There are six computers available for public use. All you need to use them is a library card.

Need to hold a meeting for a small group? Want to start a book club? There is a meeting room available for public use. Call the library to reserve the room.



Book Sale

The library is having a book sale with very low prices. Children's books are .05, paperbacks are .10, and hard covered books cost just .25! Stop in during regular hours and pick out a book or two.

“all the latest

books on the

bestseller lists”

Calling All Pre-Schoolers!

Story time takes place every Thursday morning. We try to start at 9:30am. Story time is for pre-schoolers between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 years old. Younger and older siblings are always welcome.

Videos and DVDs

The video collection continues to expand. The donations are mostly childrens, but the library has started to receive donations to purchase videos for viewers of all ages.

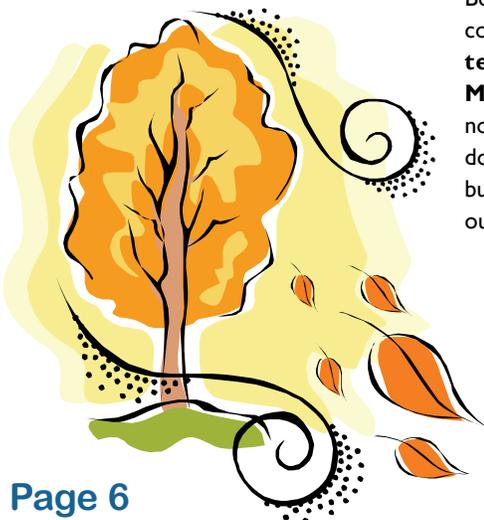


Donations

Your library will always accept donations! Books, audio books and videos are welcome. However we do not accept old textbooks, National Geographic Magazines or encyclopedias. There is no market for them, and all the library will do with them is put them in the recycle bucket. Please do not leave your donations outside the entrance to the library.

Volunteers

Do you have an evening or afternoon free? We are always looking for new volunteers. Contact Mary Holt at the library, 767-0439.



JOHN J. MCPEAK LIBRARY HOURS

201 Veterans Ave

Monday	1-8:30
Tuesday	9-11 & 1-8:30
Wednesday	1-8:30
Thursday	9-11 & 1-8:30
Friday	1-4
Saturday	10-2

856-767-0439

Cleaning up?

If you are cleaning out your garage, Basement or an attic, and will generate more than twenty cans, bags, or items such as furniture, of non-recyclable trash, please call the Public Works Department at 767-5052 to have a truck

parked at your property over a weekend at no charge that you can put trash in. Recyclables must be separated out and placed at your curb on your collection day. Effective March 1st, 2007 all large trash stops, of more than 20 cans, bags and/

or items, were handled in this manner. This is being done to cut back the costs for curbside collection and still provide a high level of service to you as a resident. For more information or to schedule a truck please call us at 767-5052.



Seasonal Notes

By this time of year everyone should be accustomed to using the **Berlin Township 2008 Schedule** for all your trash collection, recycling, yard waste, street sweeping and leaf collection guidelines. If you lost your **Berlin Township 2008 Schedule**, lent it to a friend, or just plain thought it did not pertain to you, please pick up a replacement or call the Berlin Township Public Works Department at 767-5052 for a copy. The **Berlin Township 2008 Schedule** is your guide to many of the services paid for by your tax dollars. If you are not following the schedule, you just can't be sure of getting the maximum services.

Fall Leaf Collection

Will be conducted in November. Please have any loose leaves raked to the curb, **NOT IN THE STREET**, prior to the week of collection marked on your **Berlin Township 2008 Schedule**.

Call Before you Dig...

The Fall Season is a good time to remind residents that if you plan to landscape, remember to call at least five full days ahead at the New Jersey One Call, 1-800-272-1000. This is a free service to ensure that underground utilities are clearly marked before you start digging. Remember, don't dig without a mark out. It's not only dangerous, it is illegal.

“Remember,

don't dig

without a mark

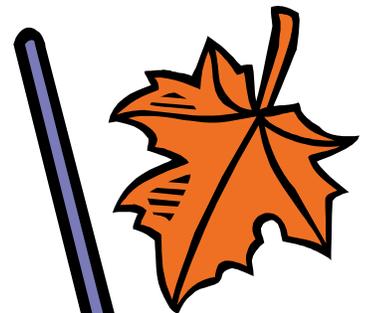
out. It's not only

dangerous, it is

illegal.”

What About Latex Paint ?

The Fall Season seems like a good time of year to clean out the garage, yard, house, etc., and don't we all save dribs and drabs of paint? Latex paint is a water based paint and can be disposed of in your regular trash, but only after being completely dried out. You can either let the paint air dry or, to help speed drying time, add kitty litter or another absorbent material directly into the paint. Dried paint can be placed at the curb on your regular trash day. Be sure to leave the lids off so our crew can confirm that the paint is dry. Oil based paint can be taken to the **County's Household Special Waste Collection**, to be held September 20th at the Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill, 9600 River Road, Pennsauken and on October 18th at the Camden County Public Works Complex, 23311 Egg Harbor Road, Lindenwold. Both events are held on Saturday from 8:30 to 3:00. Please call Camden County Department of Environmental Affairs at 856-858-5241 for more information.



Important Storm Drain Information

Labeling of the storm drains pursuant to state law has been completed. Please notify the Public Works Department at 767-5052 or the Police Department at 783-4900 if you see someone removing the labels. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection checks each year to see if the storm drains are labeled, issuing a fine if labels are not in place. The purchase of these labels and payment of any fines to the State of New Jersey is done with your tax dollars. Help us keep our costs down by keeping the labels in the proper place.



Property Maintenance News

Attention all residents of Berlin Township. Please be advised that trash should not be put out to the curb until the night before scheduled pick up.

Grass or weeds may not exceed 10" of growth as per Property Maintenance code PM-303.4. If you have any question please call the Berlin Township Property and Zoning Officer Mike Laginestra at 767-1854 ext 223.

All residents shall have the property address by number placed on their house not less than 3 inches in height and should be legible and made of durable material. It must be placed on the front door or building facade parallel to the main entrance to the building or over the garage door as specified in Ordinance # 44-6 of the Township Code.

“www.walkingabout.org to read about their journey, and to see maps, photos, and videos.”



An amazing group of New Jerseyans trekked across Southern New Jersey to promote our states unexpected beauty and to celebrate the importance of its trees.

They had left on July 12, 2008 and in fifteen days walked an incredible 215 miles through the 7 southern counties of NJ.



You can visit www.walkingabout.org

to read about their journey, and to see maps, photos, and videos.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

Volume 1, Issue 1

Planning and Zoning Board Meetings

August 26, 2008

September 16, 2008

September 30, 2008

October 28, 2008

November 25, 2008

December 09, 2008

All meetings shall be held at 6:30 PM, every second and fourth Tuesday, unless meeting date falls on a holiday.

Meetings are held in the board room of the Berlin Township Huster Building Located at 225 Grove Avenue. The meeting will be until 9:00 PM any application still being heard at this time will be tabled to the next meeting

**DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE!**

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IS
NOVEMBER 4, 2008**



Mayor & Council Meeting Dates

September 8, 2008

September 22, 2008

October 27, 2008

November 24, 2008

December 8, 2008

All meetings will be at 6:30 PM

SENIOR BUS SCHEDULE

For Reservations, one day prior call: 767-7887

TUESDAYS-THURSDAYS

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.-Berlin Circle Plaza
& Local Shopping

For special stops such as the John J. McPeak Library and local bank or post office please notify us when you make your reservation. The schedule is subject to changes due to operational and weather conditions as well as holiday changes. Times may also vary.

Berlin Township
170 Bate Avenue
West Berlin, New Jersey 08091

BULK
3rd Class
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 13

Berlin Township

Mayor

Phyllis Magazzu

Council President

Thomas DiGangi

Council Members

Joseph Batten

Jerome McIntosh

Christopher Morris

Postal Customer

West Berlin, NJ 08091

Sahara Sam's Makes A Splash In Berlin TWP.

Time to Break out those swimsuits and never pack them away again. Summer is here to stay and with new opportunities for year round fun. The Township's and State's first all-year round freestanding indoor water park is under construction officially as of April 3, 2008.

Sahara Sam's Oasis located on Rt. 73, is scheduled to open this January. The water park will be filled with family-friendly attractions from the pool and slides to the arcade and food. Sahara Sam's Oasis is great for a family outing, a personal getaway, or parties for the little ones!

The Ground Breaking Ceremony was just a preview of the Tropical getaway they plan to recreate. Festivities included the Overbrook High



Mayor and company pull ropes for big ground breaking splash.

School band setting the mood, a live camel, great food, festive safari attire and this is just the beginning. Every detail of this event was covered, even the Mayor dressed in a safari hat and vest.

When open, expectations are to serve up to 1,700 patrons a day. The sales

office opened the day of the ceremony and is a great way to get your season pass before the park officially opens to the public in February. Stop by and check out their progress!

Pictures from this event can be view at www.berlintwp.com.

WERE ON THE WEB!

WWW.BERLINTWP.COM

Continuing Generations

Berlin Township

Townships Clerks Office

170 Bate Avenue
West Berlin, NJ 08091

Phone: 856-767-1854 ext..212

Fax: 856-768-6613

E-mail:

jeggers@berlintwp.com

Offices will be Closed to Observe the Following Holidays

Monday October 13th **Columbus Day** . Tuesday November 11th **Veterans Day** . Thursday 27th & Friday 28th November **Thanksgiving**