

Berlin Township Newsletter

Continuing Generations

Spring 2010
Volume 1, Issue 6



Mayor's Message

Now that the dust has settled from Election Day 2009, we take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation for the trust you have placed in your governing body. Our pledge to keep Berlin Township First in all that we do on behalf of the citizens of our great community is stronger than ever. We remain committed to the many worthwhile projects, programs and services we believe you value as evidenced by your vote of confidence on Election Day. At the same time, we acknowledge and applaud the electoral process which serves as an awesome tool to keep everyone focused on what's important and meaningful to all of our citizens. And now more than ever it's vitally important for us to work together if we have any hope of continuing the progress we've made in Berlin Township. This is especially important at this time as there are a number of difficult challenges facing our community. We need to finish and open our New Town Hall / Shared Services Center on time and on budget; we need to develop our 2009/2010 Township Budget with as little or no impact to our taxpayers; we need to finalize our employee contract negotiations with a sense of fairness for both sides and we need to address as many residential concerns as possible (i.e. drainage issues, new roads, etc) while still maintaining the best Police / Public Safety, Public Works and Public Health. The order is tall and we'll strive to do our part through a continued and strong sense of teamwork at every possible turn as we realize progress isn't possible unless we all work together.

All the best for a Happy & Healthy New Year!!

Mayor Magazzu
&
Township Council

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Special points of interest

- **The lives of 3 residents saved!**
- **Snow Hints**
- **2009 photos!**
- **Be a part of your Town's history, find out when and where to help!**
- **Changes in the Public Works Department**



Excellent Police Work

- On January 14, 2010, Ptl. Ron Silvestro, Ptl. Brian Lex, of the Police Department and Lt. Brian Foster of the West Berlin Fire Rescue, saved the lives of three residents.

The three were dispatched to a home for the family being ill, and not answering the phone or knocks at the door, Ptl. Silvestro and Lt. Foster were on the scene first and determined that there was a large amount of fumes and exhaust coming from the interior of the house. After numerous attempts by the pair to get the attention of anyone inside the home, they forced entry and quickly determined that they were faced with a carbon monoxide issue.

Without respiratory protection, the two entered and began to search the home and located one victim and removed her to safety, the two went back in again, locating a second victim and removing him to the outside. Ptl. Lex arrived on location and all three went back and found a third victim. They removed this victim out to the awaiting Berlin EMS. All three made a full recovery from carbon monoxide poisoning. An outstanding job by all three, all three were commended at a recent Council meeting for their life saving actions.

- On January 30, 2010, Sgt. Mc Veigh, Ptl. Bonfiglio, Ptl. Wilson and Ptl. FitzGibbon were dispatched to a residence in the Township, for a suicidal person armed with a shotgun. After arriving on location and establishing a perimeter zone around the scene, Sgt. Mc Veigh and the rest of the Squad D, kept a constant surveillance of the situation.

After approximately 40 minutes, Ptl. Wilson who had a visual and verbal communication with the subject was able to convince the person to give up and surrender to the Police.

The entire Squad is commended for an outstanding job of not only protecting the public, but convincing the subject to give up, ultimately saving a life.

- The Police Department has been extremely busy over the past few months, between the weather issues and several very large scale investigations. The Officers have been involved with investigations that included a cooperative effort of the Berlin Twp. Police, Alcohol, Tobacco and Fireman's (ATF), the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Camden County Prosecutor's Office and many other local and State Agencies.

All the Officer's of the Department are commended for an outstanding job to keep Berlin Township a safe place to live, work, and play.

- With the recent weather issues, specifically the snow storms, I remind everyone to please make every effort to clear the roadways of all vehicles when snow is forecasted. This enables the Public Works trucks to be more effective and frees the Officers up to answer the emergency calls.

If you don't move vehicles the officers have to make a stop out and either have you move the vehicle or have the vehicle towed. We are looking for the cooperation to make dealing with these storms easier to combat.

The Police Department thanks everyone for their support and cooperation in the effort in combating all issues with the Township. The Department needs everyone's help, as the calls for service in the Township keep dramatically increasing. The year 2009 saw an increase of approximately 5,000 calls, with the department answering 33,183 calls for the year.

- A reminder if you see or hear of anything pertaining to a problem in the town, Please call 9-1-1 or you can call the Office, 767-5878, and speak with an Officer.

Helpful Snow Hints

- Please park off the streets so the plows can clear the streets
- Please shovel your sidewalks as well as any fire hydrants you may have on your property in case of emergency.
- The post office will not deliver if they cannot access your mailbox.
- Please if using a snow blower do not blow the snow back into the streets.
- Be a kind neighbor if you have elderly or handi-capped please check on them through the storm and lend a hand with shoveling.



From Left: Lt. Brian Foster, Ptl. Brian Lex, and Ptl. Silvestro. Awarded for saving the lives of three residents at the Township Council Meeting.

Fire Department Update

The Department answered over 680 calls for service in 2009, all while maintaining an all volunteer status, unbelievable dedication of the men and women.

The department asks that everyone lend a hand, when it snows as it has, please take time and dig out any fire hydrant that you see or is on your property. This action greatly helps us out in the event of a fire.

Lt. Brian Foster was accredited with saving their lives in a recent carbon monoxide incident in the township, (see Excellent Police Work) Great Job Brian!

Anyone who is interested in volunteering, go to our website, www.westberlinfire.com and print out the applications, fill them out and stop by on either Wednesday night (drills) or the first Friday of each month, meeting night.

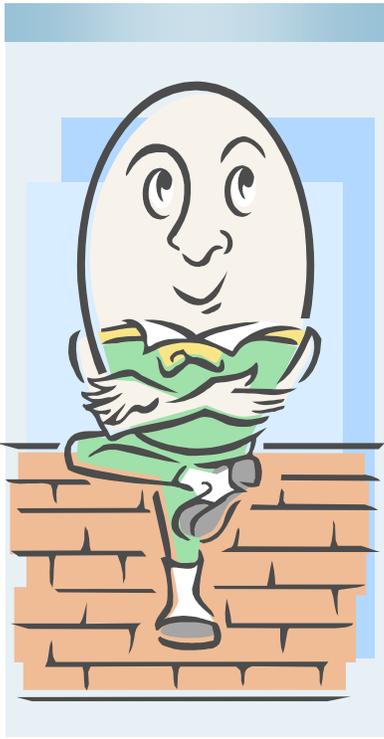
“The entire Police Squad is commended for an outstanding job of not only protecting the public, but convincing the subject to give up, ultimately saving a life.”

Berlin EMS/Twp UPDATE 2010

On behalf of all our members, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the residents of Berlin Township, our local businesses and our Mayor and Council members for their continued support throughout 2009.

From January 1st thru November 30th 2009 our department was dispatched a total of 1,873 emergency calls. There were 733 in Berlin Township, 818 in Berlin Borough and an additional 322 mutual aid calls to the surrounding communities.

Our department 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, Camden County’s Health fair and flu shot clinic.



Library News

The Berlin Township John J. McPeak 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 Fridays from July 1st, through Labor Day weekend. If your library material 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. There are also six computers available for public use. All you need to use them is a library card.



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

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

“Story time takes place every Thursday Morning, starting at 9:30 a.m.”

Volunteers

Do you have an evening or afternoon free? We are always looking for new volunteers.

Contact Mary Holt
at the Library
856-767-0439

CALLING ALL PRE-SCHOOLERS!



Story time takes place every Thursday morning. We try to start at 9:30 am

Story time is for pre-schoolers between the ages of 2 1/2 and 5 years old. Younger and older siblings are always welcome.

Do you have a long commute? Do you need to listen to something while you are doing physical therapy? Have you ever considered an audio book? All you need is a boom box, cassette player or a CD player. The library has a large collection of audio books that can be borrowed for three weeks. This is a perfect way to try new authors or learn something new. If your Township library doesn't have the book you want it can be ordered from the Camden County Library.

The Library is having a book sale with very low prices. Children's books are 5 cents, paperbacks are 10 cents, and hard covered books cost just a quarter! Stop in during regular hours and pick out a book or two.

Looking Back at 2009:



Public Works Updates

After 37 Years of Service

“It has been both a pleasure and an honor to serve the residents of Berlin Township for the past 37 years, 4 years as a Councilman and 33 years as the head of the Public Works Department. I have seen the department grow from a six man operation, working out of one room in the basement of the municipal building, to a twenty man crew encompassing a seven acre complex. The department has gone from collecting trash and filling potholes to a full service organization by far superior to all our peers. Working together there is nothing the employees of the department cannot accomplish successfully.”

“I wish to thank the present Governing Body, and all the former ones, for their faith and support in all the duties I have fulfilled. I thank all the township employees and professionals, past and present, for their years of assistance, cooperation and hard work. Finally, I would like to thank the residents of Berlin Township for putting up with, implementing and making successful, all the programs, regulations, changes and ideas that have been presented to them since July 1, 1973.”

“This is what makes our town a great place to live and work in.”

Mike McGee



Mayor and Council would like to recognize Mike McGee’s retirement from his services here at Berlin Township. We would like to thank him for his 37 years of dedication. He has made a major impact in not only our township but brought us above the rest. His persistence to implement new ideas has set an example for other municipalities in New Jersey. We wish him the best for his future plans after leaving our family here of Berlin Township Employees.

New Director of Public Works/Township Engineer

On March 22nd the Governing Body appointed our current Township Engineer, Charles J. Riebel Jr., Effective March 29th, as a replacement for our retiring Director of Public works, Mike McGee. We are excited to announce that Mr. Riebel will serve the Township as the Director of Public Works, as well as the Township Engineer, Planning/Zoning Board Engineer and Projects Engineer in the combined position, thus saving our residents thousands of dollars. As many of you know, Mr. Riebel has served as our Township Engineer for the past 15 years, and is extremely competent and knowledgeable of the Township. We look forward to working with him in this expanded capacity. He will definitely be an asset to Berlin Township.



Fact sheet

Minimizing Waste Disposal: Grass Clippings

Peter F. Strom, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Environmental Science; James A. Murphy, Ph.D., Specialist in Turfgrass Management; and Henry W. Indyk, Ph.D., Specialist Emeritus in Turfgrass Management

Since refuse disposal costs have dramatically increased, and some landfills no longer accept grass clippings, many individuals and governmental agencies are seeking alternatives for disposal of clippings. During the maximum grass growing period, the municipal refuse load in some New Jersey suburban communities may contain nearly one-third grass clippings. Collected clippings become anaerobic very quickly because of their high demand for oxygen. After becoming anaerobic they emit strongly unpleasant odors. Therefore, grass clippings (in quantity) are difficult to handle and to process.

From our own experience with the handling and disposal of grass clippings, and discussions with others such as lawn care professionals, we suggest considering the following methods to reduce landfilling:

1. **RETURN TO LAWN** — It is most desirable to leave grass clippings uncollected on the lawn so that they are recycled, contributing to soil organic matter and supplying part of the fertilizer needs of the lawn. Adopt a mowing schedule to keep clippings short enough to filter through growing grass and not remain as a mat on top of the lawn. Research and experience indicate that only 1/3 of the grass length should be removed during mowing. Never allow the lawn grass to double its height between mowings. This approach not only eliminates clipping collection and disposal problems, but also can contribute to improvement of the lawn.

Clippings are not a cause of thatch in lawns. Rather, thatch is formed primarily from a dense accumulation of grass roots and stemmy material. Returning clippings along with proper mowing frequency will not increase disease problems.

Use caution when removing collection bags from mowers. Some machines are not designed to operate safely without a bag or other attachment in place. If you are unsure, check with your equipment supplier.

2. **GARDEN MULCH** — Grass clippings can be used as a garden mulch. To minimize any tendency to protect slugs, clippings can be dried in the sun for a day prior to being used in this way. Clippings can be spread on garden soil to check weed growth, reduce soil spattering and crusting, moderate soil temperatures, etc. As a precaution, do not use grass clippings from herbicide-treated lawns until after two grass cuttings have been made.

3. **SOIL INCORPORATION** — Clippings can serve as a source of organic matter for soil improvement when incorporated into the garden.

4. **BACKYARD COMPOSTING** — Grass clippings can be composted, particularly when incorporated into a backyard leaf composting pile. However, grass has a high nitrogen content, a much higher demand for oxygen than leaves, and a tendency to mat, thereby greatly reducing the passage of oxygen. Composting piles containing

grass clippings thus readily become anaerobic. This, in turn, can produce strong, unpleasant odors. These odors are particularly noticeable when the pile is disturbed.

Because of these problems, grass clippings should not be composted alone, but rather mixed with composting leaves. The partially decayed leaves which now (6-9 months after leaf fall) have a low demand for oxygen, will serve as a bulking agent permitting more oxygen to reach the grass. Grass, which is high in nitrogen, will provide a more rapid decomposition of the remaining leaves as long as it remains under aerobic conditions. Grass clippings will also contribute to a better end product (higher nitrogen content) than that obtained from composting leaves alone. One must be aware, however, that an excess of damp grass in the pile will soon become anaerobic, produce very unpleasant odors, and reduce the rate of decomposition. The objective is to keep the material **aerobic**. Also, to ensure that excess nitrogen is not given off as ammonia, do not add more than 1 part fresh grass clippings to 3 parts partially composted leaves.

The resulting compost can be used as a soil amendment, as a mulch for gardens, flower or shrub beds, or as a potting medium.

5. MUNICIPAL COMPOSTING — Some grass clippings can be incorporated into a municipal leaf composting operation. However, problems that may be experienced with backyard grass composting could be greatly magnified at a municipal facility. Even grass stored for one day or less in plastic bags or the back of a lawn maintenance pick-up truck may emit very unpleasant odors when being unloaded at the site. For this

reason, grass clippings are banned at many leaf composting facilities, unless they are very isolated. Research is continuing in this area, but other problems include the high cost of collection and an inadequate supply of leaves for the amount of clippings.

Partially composted leaves should be mixed with the grass in a 3:1 ratio, or more. Because the leaves have already decomposed by the time the grass comes to the site, however, this means the ratio actually collected must be at least 6:1. For most towns this would be possible only if most of the grass clippings are handled directly by residents on their own property.

6. CLIPPING REDUCTION — Fertilizing and watering above the requirements of the grasses may be more detrimental than beneficial to the lawn. One of the effects is increased production of clippings. (Another is potential ground or surface water pollution.) Judicious and proper use of fertilizer and water can provide an attractive lawn with a reduction in the costs, effort, susceptibility to disease, and amount of clippings produced. A fertilization program should emphasize fertilizing the lawn in the fall season rather than in the spring. This can be effective not only in reducing the amount of clippings produced, but also in contributing to a better lawn.

Two related fact sheets: "Backyard Leaf Composting" (FS074) and "Using Leaf Compost" (FS117), and assistance with procedures covered above, may be obtained from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension office in your county. The telephone number appears under County Government in your local phone directory.

Above and Beyond for Berlin Township

During the snow storm of December 19th and 20th, 2009, a township resident became ill and required the services of our local ambulance crew and a Virtua paramedic team. The resident was in a life threatening condition and required immediate medical attention. The medical personnel could not get their equipment to the patient due to heavy accumulation of snow between the house and the street. Two public works employees Anthony Shantz Sr. and Butch Mc Allister were in the process of plowing the street. They saw the conditions, assessed the problem and immediately began to assist the medical personnel. They plowed the driveway and shoveled a path, wide enough for the equipment to fit in to the door of the house. They then assisted the medical personnel moving the resident to the ambulance and loading her inside. Within minutes, the resident was stabilized, loaded and enroute to the emergency room. Without the quick thinking and assistance of these two public works employees, the resident could have become a fatality in her own home.

These two employees were presented with an official commendation by Mayor & Council for going above and beyond the duties of the public works realm.

The whole Public Works Department was presented with a Department commendation by Mayor & Council for outstanding performance during the storm on Dec. 19th & 20th.

The employees worked up to 26 straight hours and continued during the following week cleaning the streets while keeping up the normal collection routes on time.

Mayor & Council Meetings

April 26
 May 10
 May 24
 June 28
 August 2
 September 13
 September 27
 October 25
 November 8
 November 22
 December 13

Planning & Zoning Meetings

April 27
 May 11
 May 25
 June 29
 August 3
 September 14
 September 28
 October 26
 November 9
 November 23
 December 14

All meetings shall be held at 6:30 PM every second and Fourth Monday/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 held until 9:00 PM. Any application still being heard will be tabled to the next meeting.

Senior Corner

PLEASE LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US!

Senior Bus Schedule

For **Reservations** Call:

856-767-7887

Call on Monday for Tuesday's Route

Call on Wednesday for Thursdays Route

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Berlin Circle Plaza & Local Shopping

For All Other Senior Citizen

Correspondences

PLEASE CALL:

Mike Laginestra, Senior Coordinator

856-767-1854 x.223

John J. McPeak Library Hours

**201 Veterans Avenue
 856-767-0439**

**MONDAY 1-8:30
 TUESDAY.....9-11 & 1-8:30
 WEDNESDAY..... 1-8:30
 THURSDAY..... 9-11 1-8:30
 FRIDAY.....1-4
 SATURDAY10-2**

You'd be amazed at what an old fridge can save.

Chances are, an older refrigerator or freezer is running up your utility bills by an average of \$150 a year. But you can help lower energy use, reduce your energy bills and protect

the environment by keeping harmful materials out of the landfills. Recycle your old fridge today. We'll pick it up free and in return you'll receive \$30.

For a free pick up, call 1-877-270-3520 or visit NJCleanEnergy.com



GET A **\$30** REBATE

SAVE UP TO **\$150** A YEAR ON ENERGY

Refrigerators and stand alone freezers must be in working condition and between 19 and 30 cubic feet using inside measurements. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program contracts with JACO Environmental, an appliance recycler, to pick-up and recycle the units. New Jersey residents must own units being recycled. Limit two units per residential address. Additional restrictions may apply.



APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Trash Collection C Route Mun. Sewer Due	2 HOLIDAY	3
4	5 HOLIDAY	6 Trash Collection A Route	7 Trash Collection B Route	8 Trash Collection C Route	9 Vegetation Collection	10
11	12 Vegetation Collection End Grace Period	13 Trash Collection A Route	14 Trash Collection B Route	15 Trash Collection C Route	16 Concrete Collection	17
18	19 Vegetation Collection Water Shut Offs	20 Trash Collection A Route	21 Trash Collection B Route	22 Trash Collection C Route	23	24
25	26 Vegetation Collection	27 Trash Collection A Route	28 Trash Collection B Route	29 Trash Collection C Route	30 Concrete Collection	

MAY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sweep Streets A Route This Week	3 Vegetation Collection	4 Trash Collection A Route	5 Trash Collection B Route	6 Trash Collection C Route	7	8
9 Sweep Streets B Route This Week	10 Vegetation Collection	11 Trash Collection A Route	12 Trash Collection B Route	13 Trash Collection C Route	14 Concrete Collection	15 CCMUA Due
16 Sweep Streets C Route This Week	17 Vegetation Collection	18 Trash Collection A Route	19 Trash Collection B Route	20 Trash Collection C Route	21	22
23	24 Vegetation Collection	25 Trash Collection A Route	26 Trash Collection B Route	27 Trash Collection C Route	28 Concrete Collection	29
30	31 HOLIDAY					

JUNE 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Trash Collection A Route B.B. Water Due	2 Trash Collection B Route	3 Trash Collection C Route	4 Vegetation Collection	5
6 Sweep Streets A Route This Week	7 Vegetation Collection	8 Trash Collection A Route	9 Trash Collection B Route	10 Trash Collection C Route	11 Concrete Collection	12
13 Sweep Streets B Route This Week	14 Vegetation Collection	15 Trash Collection A Route	16 Trash Collection B Route	17 Trash Collection C Route	18	19
20 Sweep Streets C Route This Week	21 Vegetation Collection	22 Trash Collection A Route	23 Trash Collection B Route	24 Trash Collection C Route	25 Concrete Collection	26
27	28 Vegetation Collection	29 Trash Collection A Route	30 Trash Collection B Route			

JULY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Trash Collection C Route Mun. Sewer Due	2	3
4 Sweep Streets A Route This Week	5 HOLIDAY	6 Trash Collection A Route	7 Trash Collection B Route	8 Trash Collection C Route	9 Vegetation Collection	10
11 Sweep Streets B Route This Week	12 Vegetation Collection	13 Trash Collection A Route	14 Trash Collection B Route	15 Trash Collection C Route	16 Concrete Collection	17
18 Sweep Streets C Route This Week	19 Vegetation Collection	20 Trash Collection A Route	21 Trash Collection B Route	22 Trash Collection C Route	23	24
25	26 Vegetation Collection	27 Trash Collection A Route	28 Trash Collection B Route	29 Trash Collection C Route	30 Concrete Collection	31

In an effort to save Tax Payer Dollars we are not sending out our collection schedule calendars as our practice has been in the past. Instead the full **2010 Collection Schedule** will be available on the Township Website www.berlintwp.com. The newsletter, which goes out each quarter, will include the corresponding months of the quarter. Again this is being done to cut costs and still keep you, our resident, informed.

Continuing Generations

Berlin Township Municipal Building
170 Bate Avenue
West Berlin NJ 08091

Phone: 856-767-1854
Fax: 856-768-6613
E-mail: cunderwood@berlintwp.com
Web: www.BerlinTwp.com

NJ
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West Berlin, NJ 08091



- Mayor**
- Phyllis Magazzu
- Council President**
- Christopher Morris
- Council Members**
- Joseph Batten
- Jerome Mc Intosh
- Thomas DiGangi
- Township Clerk**
- Catherine Underwood

Celebrating 100 Years!

Berlin Township was formed on April 11, 1910. Our township included West Berlin, Berlin Estates, East Berlin and Berlin Borough. Berlin Borough seceded from the township on April 26, 1927. All this year we will be celebrating 100 years of being Berlin Township.

The Centennial Committee is currently working on and planning several events that will be taking place in our township but we need your help! Whether your family has been here 100 years or 1 year we know everyone has some history here and some of our founding families are still in our area. We will be having a meeting and we need you to come and bring any memorabilia, stories, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. that will enable us to chronicle our past and provide the best account of times gone by. The committee will have a scanner to copy your pictures and any other items you may bring. We would like to gather as much information as possible. Your involvement and input is vital and will help us create memories of a lifetime.

My suggestion is to celebrate throughout the year. I would like to plan something special for the dedication of our New Town Hall, the 4th of July Parade and perhaps a Berlin Township Day in the fall for all to enjoy. What do you think?

I am reaching out to all of you..... our local Churches, our Great Police and Fire Departments, our local Businesses, our Senior Citizens Group, our Ladies Auxiliaries, our Great School System, the BTAA, P.E.A.C.E, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and any other groups that are an essential part of our township. Yes, this means YOU!

None of this will be possible without your involvement. Please help us make this year the best of Berlin Township's next 100 Years.

Come out and meet your neighbors. Join us for coffee, tea and light refreshments.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Mary Soards

Date:	April 24, 2010
Place:	The New Berlin Township Shared Services Center
Time:	1:00 p.m.