



TOWN OF BERNE COURIER

Vol. 42

News From Your Town Government

Winter 2016

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The Town of Berne has just approved its 2017 budget and it will result in a 3% property tax decrease. This will be the fourth straight year of property tax cuts for the Town of Berne.

Also, you may have noticed a check you received just a few weeks ago called the Property Tax Freeze Credit. You received this check because the Town Board, and the Albany County Executive's Office worked together to develop a government efficiency plan. This plan, along with the fact that we stayed under the property tax cap, has resulted in taxpayer savings for Berne residents.



As the new year approaches, myself and the Town Board will work with our partners in government to provide what I believe will be a historic and even larger tax cut for residents. Making government work smarter and more efficiently is our goal.

With the holiday season almost here, let's take time to enjoy our family and friends in our wonderful community and give thanks for our many blessings.

-Kevin Crosier



Berne T-Shirt Quilt Donated to Town

Last winter, Pat Favreau had an idea. Over the years, she had collected t-shirts from many of the Fox Creek 5-K races and Town summer youth programs. She chose to keep the shirts because she felt they were "artistic," that they were a "piece of history" and deserved preserving.

One day, after attending a retirement seminar where the presenter strongly urged retirees to have goals in mind, Pat had an idea of turning all those t-shirts into a quilt.

Pat began the Berne T-Quilt in January, spending many hours re-

searching materials, laying out the design and sewing the squares. The t-shirt fabric was different than what she was used to and she had to learn new skills. But when she finished, Pat had created a beautiful, one-of-a-kind quilt which she dedicated to the Town of Berne in August.

If you would like to view the quilt, please stop in the Town Hall during regular hours.

Pictured above (left to right) are Town Council Member Karen Schimmer, Town Supervisor Kevin Crosier, previous Town Clerk Pat Favreau and Town Council Member Dawn Jordan.



The Game Farm Road property has officially been named Switzkill Farm. After many months of deliberation, and research by our marketing firm, the name was selected from more than 75 names submitted by the public. A review of many records related to the property and

a large map, revealed that the original name of the property was Switzkill Farm.

Our thanks go out to all those individuals who took the time and energy to become engaged in the process of choosing a name for this beautiful area. Please come visit the Farm; you'll be rewarded with beautiful vistas, a quiet and peaceful environment, dark skies and 7 miles of hiking trails available to all. (Check out Switzkill Farm's Facebook page!)

St. Paul's on State Register of Historic Sites

On September 19th, the Town received a letter from New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation announcing that St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was officially listed on the State's Register of Historic Places. In addition, St. Paul's nomination will be forwarded on to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. If the Keeper approves the nomination, St. Paul's will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

One Hundred Years Ago

*One Hundred Years Ago—
From the Enterprise,
Nov. 1916–Jan 5, 1916.*

Harvest season is winding down, and the State's apple harvest is estimated to be about 12 million barrels. If you have apples for pressing into cider, you can sell them for 25 cents per hundred pounds at Voorheesville or bring them to Chesbro and Sand's mill in Berne to be pressed, but remember to pick up your juice by November 17. While in Berne, check out the newest Village improvement - concrete sidewalks.

It's a State-wide and national election year (incumbent Woodrow Wilson vs. Charles Evans Hughes), and sample ballots and ads are in print. One large ad is on behalf of Henry Ford of automobile fame. His views are in alignment with Wilson, and Ford says we "should guard against Wall Street influences again securing control of our government ... equal work deserves equal pay. Hence all women in our employment who do equal work shall receive equal pay."

On Tuesday morning, Nov. 21, Thompson's Lake sees its first snow, nine days before Thanksgiving. And on December 5th, there is thunder and lightning out of a clear sky. Also, at the Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Palmatier close their hotel for the season.

West Berne reports that a number of residents took a bus to Albany to shop. If you mail at least one dollar to the Albany City Saving Institution, they will open an account with 4% interest and mail back a Christmas bank book. Although it is wisely not advertised as a gift item, F.C. Hayes in Altamont offers the "Elite" electric vacuum cleaner for \$25. Get a free demonstration before you buy.

As Christmas looms, the Altamont Bakery offers fruit cakes, and pumpkin and mince pies made to order. "Telephone your wants." The number is "21-F 4." [This was a time of switchboard operators who were well-known in the communities. In November, the East Berne correspondent reported that while Leona Ames was away, Miss Edith Wagoner would take her place. Ed.]

-Submitted by George Christian

Grant for New Playground at the Berne Town Park

Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play really is the work of childhood.

-Fred Rogers

Child development experts agree, play is essential for children. Imaginative, unstructured, self-directed play serves to develop creativity, self-reliance, and empowers the child to take charge of his life.

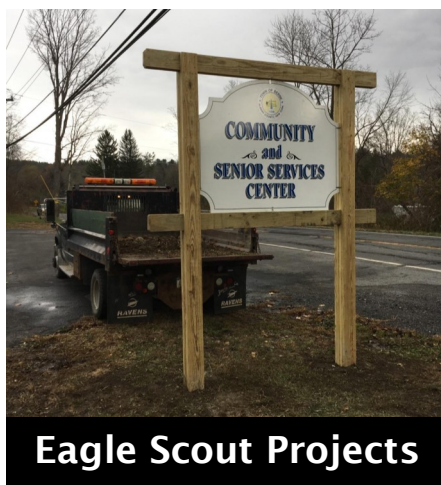
Understanding the importance of play to our children, we sought, and have been awarded, a \$12,000 Priority Purchase Grant from Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara to develop a playground for the Berne Town Park.

The approved plans include one single-level fort and one multi-level fort. It will include a suspension bridge, with safety rails, which will connect the two structures. A climbing wall, a fire pole, a 4-foot double slide, and a single 6-foot slide will provide access and egress to the

structures. An ADA transfer station and landing platform are important features of the playground, as are monkey bars and log climbers. All the equipment and plans have been approved by a certified playground safety inspector, and will be installed according to the guidelines set forth in the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's recommendations for playground safety. Installation is planned for late spring of 2017.

We are most grateful for Assemblyman

Santabarbara's generous support of our efforts to upgrade the Town Park, and more importantly, to provide our children with the equipment that will allow them to engage in play so vital to their development. Thank you, Assemblyman Santabarbara!



Eagle Scout Projects

The Town of Berne is proud to have two Eagle Scouts—Devon Longendyke and John Todd McGivern—select Berne for their Eagle Scout projects. McGivern erected a sign at the Senior Center along with a new handicap sidewalk. Longendyke is remodeling an office at the center to relocate a part-time county office for all Hilltown residents to access. Thank you to both young men and their families for their hard work and dedication.

Opportunities for Seniors



Helderberg Senior Services—your lunch destination for Monday, Tuesday and Friday—has exciting news to share. We now have transportation to and from lunch on Mondays and Tuesdays. This transportation is provided with the Town of Berne's senior van. We are having a monthly craft project. These are done with no cost to you the diner; we just ask that you enjoy lunch with us on the day of the craft.

We also have trips coming up. We are currently taking sign-ups for a trip to the Cooperstown Farmers Market on December 17; we will be going to Mel's at 22 for lunch (self pay) and then we will go to the Farmers' Market to see A Christmas Carol. The cost for tickets is \$12.50.

The most exciting news is we are having a new monthly contest to reward our diners. Each month the Senior of the Month will win a store gift card. The easiest way to get an entry is to come to lunch. While you are there you can read about all the other ways of earning extra entries. This is a contest that proves more is better because the more entries you have the better chance of winning.

Lunches are provided Monday, Tuesday and Friday at the Berne Community and Senior Center at 1360 Helderberg Trail; Berne. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The center is open at 10:30 and we generally stay open until at least 2:30 depending on what is scheduled.

For a reservation please call me, Linda Hodges, at 872-0940 by 10 a.m. the day before you wish to come. If you get the answering machine please leave your name, phone number, how many are coming and if you need transportation—your complete address. The lunch menus are on the Town website or you can ask me when you call. We look forward to seeing you.

Lunch is provided by Senior Services of Albany. Congregate Dining is funded in large part through support from the Albany County Department for Aging, the New York State Office for Aging, and the Administration on Aging. Additional support for this program comes from donors and community businesses like you. There is a \$3.00 suggested contribution towards the cost of the meal. No one will be turned away due to an inability to make a contribution.



Roast Beef Dinner—draws folks from afar

The bi-annual fundraiser for the Berne Fire Company is their popular Roast Beef Dinner held every year on the first Sunday in May and the third Sunday in October (serving time is noon to five).

It is so popular, that some people drive great distances. Cars are full with young and old alike. Some have been coming to this event for a very long time.

In fact, over the last three years, the fire company has served almost 4,000 dinners! That comes to 3,900 lbs. of roast beef, 750 quarts of applesauce and 720 lbs. of coleslaw!

Consider volunteering for your local fire department. Not only is it a needed service, but it's a great way to get involved with your community!

*Submitted by
Jim Mosbey and Mike Vincent.*

BKW Students at Switzkill Farm

On November 3, a beautiful Thursday afternoon, 60 fifth graders from Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District visited the Switzkill Farm town park with their teachers to walk one of the newly marked trails. They spent about an hour and a half on the Red Trail with two guides, Roger Chrysler and Richard Ronconi - both active Switzkill Farm supporters.



The children learned about the history of the Farm and reasons for the old stone walls found throughout the area. They identified and collected various leaves, ferns, lichens, fossils and even scat (animal droppings). The students identified different ecological areas: ponds, maple and hickory groves, pine forests, shale pits and the associated flora and fauna. All the students diligently noted their observations for later presentation in class.

In addition, Richard Ronconi of Partridge Run Farm and Apiary, gave a talk about bees to a group of interested citizens (left).

We hope that BKW and the rest of the community continue to use the Switzkill Farm as a valuable educational and recreational resource.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Community Caregivers exemplifies “neighbor helping neighbor” and serves many communities throughout Albany County. Through our network of dedicated volunteers, we provide a helping hand to individuals who need assistance to stay at home.

Our volunteers offer only non-medical services, but the services can make or break someone's ability to live independently. The services include grocery shopping, rides to the doctor or other medical appointments, visits and calls for socialization and work of assisting loved ones. Most caregivers don't identify themselves as such, but need support and resources to maintain their own health and well-being.

We know that many people in Berne help others quietly and without fanfare. Often, however, you may not know who needs help. Through our organization, we offer a way to make a meaningful and direct difference by identifying those you don't know who need a helping hand.

Community Caregivers can only serve to the extent that we have volunteers in the community. If you'd be interested in volunteering please join us for an orientation any first Tuesday or third Thursday of the month at 12 noon at the Community Caregivers Office, 2021 Western Ave., Suite 104, Albany. Please give Linda Miller a call at 456-2898 to register if you are interested in helping or just want to learn about what we offer.

Community Caregivers, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that provides non-medical services including transportation and caregiver support at no charge. Our funding is derived from the Albany County Dept. for Aging, the NYS Office for the Aging and the US Administration on Aging.



ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



Holiday Donations Needed

Hilltowns Community Resource Center is gearing up for our Holiday Program. We are seeking donations for our needy families. An unwrapped toy is always a help. If someone is interested in adopting a child for the Holiday Program please call the office at 797-5256.

If interested in making a monetary donation to our Food Pantry, checks can be made to HCRC, PO Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193.

We have collaborated with the Westerlo Reformed Church to provide Senior Lunch. The December date for lunch is the 8th. Starting in January, lunch is the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Lunch is a free-will offering and



starts at noon.

Our Mobile Pantry rolled out in April. We were able to get funding through CDPHP to help with the purchase of a van and a driver. If you are in need of food and cannot get to our pantry call the office

and we can get a food pantry right to your doorstep.

We have a Moms Group that will be starting up on Nov. 8th here at the pantry. If you are interested and would like to sign up call the pantry. We are including a healthy cooking segment during class. So come and mingle and take dinner with you! Class starts at 11 a.m.

We want to Thank everyone that supports our program and the mission of Catholic Charities. We couldn't run our programs without your continued support.

-Thank You, Mary Beth Peterson and Misty Schaffer.

HCRC telephone: (518)797-5256

Community Accountability Board

Berne's Community Accountability Board (CAB) is looking for members.

CAB was created by the Albany County District Attorney's Office to give the community a voice in the criminal justice process. It was designed to serve as an alternative to traditional criminal sentencing for non-violent, quality of life offenses. Its goal is to help offenders recognize the harm done to their victims, the community, and themselves, and to reduce the possibility of recidivism.

Comprised of trained and certified citizens, CAB offers the offender the opportunity to repair the damage done by their offense through the assignment of specific activities that must be fulfilled for successful completion of the program. The Judge, Assistant District Attorney and the Defense Attorney must approve the offender's participation in the program. Berne's Community Accountability Board meets regularly to review cases referred by the court.

All CAB members must receive certification training through the Albany County

District Attorney's Office. This includes basic orientation to our criminal justice system, the restorative justice system, and the CAB process. Ongoing, in-service training and attendance at informational meetings are required. All members must commit to a minimum of one-year's service and participation in at least one CAB session per month.

Additionally, Board members must be willing to interact confidentially with victims and offenders in a non-judgmental, balanced and fair approach. An open-mind, a knowledge of the community, and the capacity to listen and communicate effectively are essential attributes for potential members. All CAB members serve at the pleasure of the Albany County District Attorney.

The Community Accountability Board provides a rewarding, direct service experience to our community that assists and supports crime victims and their offenders. Please contact Pastor Bob Hoffman at 872.1553 if you would like to join this most rewarding community advocacy group.

Highway Happenings

Town of Berne residents-

Well, it is that time of the year. Winter is here. Please watch for icy and snowy roads. Some helpful tips to help the Highway and the County plow your roads and make them safe are:

do not park on roads; keep trash cans at least 2 ft off road; don't relocate snow from driveways into the roadway (it is illegal – not to mention dangerous!); fences/obstructions should be at least 10ft from the edge of road; and, mail-boxes should be at least 41"-45" above the surface and at least 8-12" from edge of road. These tips can be found on the Cornell local roads program.

Also, the walls are done on the new salt shed (see below) and the roof system will be applied Nov. 15th. This is great for the Town residents. Clean and dry material will save a lot of time and money.

Recently, we have had vandalism to Town road signs. Please contact me anytime if you see any more destruction to our road signs. My cell is 518-573-3002 and the Highway Office number is 518-872-1448, ext 113.

As always, feel free to call me, day or night.

Thank you for your support.

*-Berne Highway Superintendent
Randy Bashwinger*



Berne Public Library—Read All About It

The community indicated in the 2015 surveys and focus groups that the library should be open more hours. This goal became part of the 2016-2019 strategic plan. The Library Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the library was able to obtain funding for four more hours a week. Thank you to the Town of Berne and the Town of Knox for supporting these efforts. **Beginning January 4, 2017 the library will be open at noon on Wednesdays instead of four o'clock.** Stop in after your trip to the transfer station!

It cannot be said that we waste things at the library. Our old book return was a discard from Cornell University rescued by Jan and Ralph Miller. It was repainted, welded, and repainted again to make it last over the years. This fall we received a special legislative grant from Senator Amedore that allowed us to purchase and install a new thru-wall book return. Hopefully that will prevent the snow from blowing into the box with the books!

Look for upcoming programs on the website, www.bernepubliclibrary.org or in the Altamont Enterprise. Special programs are scheduled for intermediate readers during the holiday and winter school breaks.



Dedication of the new library drop box. Pictured are Berne Town Council Member Joe Golden, Knox Supervisor Vas Lefkaditis, Senator George Amadore, Jr., Berne Librarian Judy Petrosillo, Berne Supervisor Kevin Crosier and Library Trustee Ellen Doolin.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 4 to 8 p.m.
 Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 8
Wednesday: 12 to 8 p.m.
 Thursday: 2 to 8 p.m.
 Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2

Storytime - preliteracy program for babies to 5 years - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Read to Ariel - our tail waggin' tutor - first Monday of the month from 4-6 p.m.

Movie Night - first Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Teen Action Group - teen activities - second Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Book Club - adult program for discussing books - first Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Knit Wits - knitting and crocheting time for adults - third Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Art Activities - for adults and young adults - fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Friends of the Berne Library

Community support has enabled the Berne Public Library and the Friends of the Berne Library to continue improving the collection, library space, and programs.

The Friends were able to provide matching funds for the 2016 New York State Library Construction Grant Program. This grant provided money for the installation of energy-efficient windows. The grant also covered repair of the outside brickwork.

A new set of fifty state books has arrived at the library. These nonfiction resources will be especially useful to the B-K-W fifth grade students who are assigned a state report. The Bowls for Books event in April provided some of the funds.

Proceeds from the food booth at Music

in the Park, Summerfest, and the Lasagna Dinner and Cakewalk will be used to purchase new DVD shelving for the library.

Jane McLean, a former Berne Library Friend who recently moved from the area, has sewn a dozen Grandmother's Fan aprons using vintage fabric. The proceeds from this Apron Sale will be used to purchase additional seating in the library.

Coming Events:

The 2nd annual Photography Contest will take place soon. Photos must be submitted by January 31, 2017 and will be on exhibit throughout the month of February in the community room of the library. The categories for the contest are: "Joy of Reading", "Hilltowners", "Down on the Farm", and "Reflections and Shadows". The photos will be judged on their artistic merit, composi-

tion, and relevance to the category. Entry forms will be available at the library and on the library website

www.bernepubliclibrary.org. Click on the "Friends" page. This year the first place winners will receive Macy's gift cards.

The Friends are sponsoring two photography programs. Tom Gagnon will give tips for dynamic photographs at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 17. Agnes Zellin and Paul Tick will present a program on their photographs from NY City in the 1970's and 1980's on December 6 at 7 p.m. Both programs will encourage you to look through the lens with a different perspective in preparation for the Photography Contest.

The Friends Book, Jewelry, and Game Sale is scheduled for March 25 and 26, 2017. Set aside any discards from your shelves. Donations will be accepted on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the Community and Senior Center.



Town of Berne
PO Box 57
Berne, NY 12023



TOWN DIRECTORY:

TOWN of BERNE—ALL DEPARTMENTS PHONE	872-1448
TOWN HALL FAX	872-9303
TOWN OF BERNE LIBRARY—	PHONE 872-1246
	FAX 872-9024
HIGHWAY GARAGE	PHONE 872-1448. EXT 108
	FAX 872-9563
SUPERVISOR	Kevin Crosier
TOWN BOARD MEMBERS:	Joe Golden, Wayne Emory, Dawn Jordan, Karen Schimmer
TOWN CLERK	Anita Clayton
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT	Randy Bashwinger
TOWN JUSTICE	Albert E. Raymond
TOWN JUSTICE	Alan P. Zuk
COURT CLERK	Stacy Loucks
PLANNING BOARD CHAIR	Rick Rapp
ZONING BOARD CHAIR	Ron Jordan
CONSERVATION BOARD CHAIR	Kathleen Moore
ASSESSOR	Brian Crawford
YOUTH COUNCIL CHAIR	Trudy Horl
YOUTH DIRECTOR	Kathy Wank
SEWER DISTRICT ISSUES/EMERGENCIES	Kevin Crosier 424-3446
BUILDING & ZONING	Tim Lippert 339-6030
DOG CONTROL OFFICER	Cheryl Baitsholts 728-8082
TAX COLLECTOR	Gerald O'Malley 872-0331
TOWN HISTORIAN	Ralph Miller 872-0212
BERNE POST OFFICE	872-0424
EAST BERNE POST OFFICE	872-1244

TOWN CLERK

Monday-Wednesday	8 AM-3 PM
Thursday	9 AM- 2 PM
Saturday	9 AM-noon

Evenings by appointment

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Thursday	7-9 PM
Saturday	9 AM-noon

TOWN BOARD

2 nd Wednesday	7:30 PM
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PLANNING BOARD

1 st and 2 nd Thursday (as needed)	7 PM
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TOWN COURT CLERK HOURS

Tuesday	9 AM TO 1 PM
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TOWN COURT

Tuesday	5 PM
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ASSESSOR

Wednesday	5:30 to 7 PM
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(January through May)

Located at Town Library Building

TRANSFER STATION

Monday	4 PM to 8 PM
Wednesday	Noon to 8 PM
Saturday	8 AM to 4 PM

Closed Holidays

Permit required-obtain from Town Clerk