

TOWN OF BERNE COURIER

Volume 37 News From Your Town Government Winter 2015

Winter, 1915

(From the Enterprise, January / February)

Town Supervisor Franklin Schultes starts the year with a financial report for 1914 that includes expenses of labor and materials for work on highways and bridges — \$4,885.57, teachers' wages — \$3,409.39, removing obstructions caused by snow — \$229.72, and a balance of \$1,013.66 at National Commercial Bank.

January has hardly begun when the Huntersland correspondent reports very cold temperatures "well below zero." By early February, the ice at the head of Lake George is strong enough for the D&H to begin its annual ice harvest using cars on tracks built well out onto the Lake. To keep warm, E.G. Crannell of Altamont recommends buying its hard, clean coal that is transferred direct from its "coal pocket" to your wagon; "try a ton and be convinced." In South Berne, the church's chicken dinner is postponed by a storm, but soon after, the Reidsville church has its fundraising event: a ten-cent fishing pond and a lunch counter "for the hungry fishers." For more indoor fun, go off the hill to Altamont where the Masonic Temple shows "Moving Pictures" on Saturdays at 8 P.M. Admission is ten cents and there is an "Expert Operator in Charge." And Thompson's Lake reports a quilting bee hosted by Mrs. Lawrence Warner.

News from East Berne is that "Isaac Van Schaak had the misfortune to have his sleigh upset, breaking several dozen eggs and shaking him up severely," and Frank Linsley purchased a new auto but had trouble getting it home due to icy roads. (continued on Page 2)



On February 6, the purchase of 350+ acres of land on Game Farm Road by the Town of Berne was finalized. The property, adjacent to hundreds of acres of state forest land, will be used for retreats, weddings, conferences and winter sports.

(left to right) Dan Mc Coy, Bruce Hidley, Gary Domaliwicz, Kevin Crosier, Angelo Santabarbara, Charles Burgess, Mark King

This project offers many opportunities for economic development and diverse recreational activities. The Albany County Capital Resource Corporation, an offspring of the Albany County Industrial Development Agency, recognized this when it granted the Town \$125,000 funding toward the purchase. The existing Lodge and the Retreat Center on the property hold great potential for local employment and business.

The \$125,000 Capital Resource Corporation grant, together with a grant of \$237,500 toward the purchase price from the Open Space institute Land Trust, allowed the Town to purchase the property with \$112,500 of Town funds going toward the purchase. The Open Space Institute works to preserve and protect critical habitats from loss to development. It supports communities demonstrating interest in preserving rural lands by providing grants to assure conservation of the land. Open Space considered the Town of Berne as a potential buyer based on the Town's demonstrated interest in preserving rural lands within its borders. The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy supported the purchase, helping to craft a conservation easement that assures the rural nature of the property will be preserved.

We would like to thank the many residents who have expressed support for this project. The outpouring of support and enthusiasm from the community has been an inspiration. We gratefully acknowledge the parties in the project which include County Executive Dan McCoy, IDA Chair Gary Domaliwicz, Open Space Institute and the Mohawk Hudson land Conservancy. This purchase could not have been accomplished without their collaboration and support. ~Kevin Crosier~

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO GAME FARM ROAD BOARD

The Berne Town Board is inviting nominations for membership to the Board of the Game Farm Road Project. This will be a working board comprised of seven individuals both eager and interested in the future of the property and its uses.

Candidates may be self-nominated, or nominated by someone familiar with nominee's interest in the project. Those nominated by others will be contacted to confirm their willingness to serve. The Board will represent

Winter 2015

(continued from page one)

The diversity of the community and a diversity of interests in the project's development. Development of this project will proceed through several phases. In this, the Start Up phase, a Board will be selected, the terms of governance defined, a set of strategies developed and visioning workshops for public input scheduled and implemented.

The governing board will suggest policy, shape activities, evaluate and recommend uses, and oversee the operation of the project. Their recommendations will be submitted to the Town Board for final approval.

Nominations will be accepted through March 20, 2015. Application forms may be found on the Town of Berne website or at the Town Clerk's office.

When faced with a challenge Look for a way, not a way out.

(continued from page one)

In a timely article, The New York Secretary of State, Francis Hugo, writes about "Motoring in Winter." He advises using caution when entering snowdrifts that are very deep and "apt to strain and bend the delicate parts of the machinery. But with ordinary care, snow drifts are easily cut through and those motorists who have not dared to to attempt it will experience surprises when they see how even small powered cars surmount obstacles which would be impossible with horses or horse drawn vehicles." Motorists who have a different experience should know that Normanskill Auto does repairs and says that "you can be absolutely sure of one thing, that you will not be overcharged."

This author recently spoke to a Hilltown resident who attended the oneroom school on Ketchum Road. On a day when it was below -20 F., the children asked dad if they might skip the walk to school. Dad replied that the weather was what he had in mind when he bought their sheepskin coats. When they got to school, they found the teacher had stayed home.

~~Contributed by

George Christian~~

TOWN OF BERNE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

On January 1, 2015, Attorney William J. Conboy, II administered oaths of office to two newly elected officials:

Town Council Member — Dawn Jordan

Highway Superintendent — Randy Bashwinger

Among business conducted, the following motions were passed:

Designated the First Niagara Bank, the official town repository bank.

Designated The Altamont Enterprise, the official town newspaper.

Ratified the 2015-\$79,000 contract with the Albany County Advanced Life Support Program for services.

Ratified the 2015 -\$55,000 contract with the Helderberg Ambulance.

Approved the town's participation in Household Hazardous Waste Days.

Scheduled regular Town Board meetings for 7:30 on the second Wednesday of each month and the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 to conduct business if, as, and when necessary.

Authorized an agreement with Community Caregivers for the purpose of administering the Senior Van Transportation Program.

Authorized an agreement with the Town of Berne Library.

2015 APPOINTMENTS

Deputy Supervisor	Joe Golden
Director-Emergency Management	Kevin Crosier
Registrar & Dep. Tax Collector	Anita Clayton
Legal Counsel –Town Board	William J. Conboy, II
Deputy Legal Counsel	. William J. Conboy, III
Building/Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement	Tim Lippert
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitholts
Chairman of Assessors	Brian Crawford
Marriage Officer, Dep. Town Clerk /Registrar	Patricia M. Favreau
Senior Account Clerk	Andrea Borst
Court Clerk	Stacy Loucks
Sec. Planning & Zoning Boards, 2nd DepTown. Clerk	Katherine Hill-Brown
Solid Waste Coordinator	Scott Green
Historian	Ralph Miller

STANDING COMMITTEES — 2015

PLANNING BOARD

Alan Rockmore (Chair) Michael Vincent

Gerard Chartier

Rick Rapp

Debra Bajouwa

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Ron Jordan (Chair)

George Christian

John Carsten

Terry Adams Richard Otto

Henry Robinson —Alternate

CONSERVATION BOARD

Kathy Moore (Chair)

Nancy Engel

John Kusler

Randy Grippen

Susan Hawks-Teeter

ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD

Emily Wright (Chair)

Debra Flagler

Robert Conklin

Philip Stevens

Wilma Warner

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Marion Burghart (Chair)

JoAnn Brady

Janet Adams

Marsha Descartes

Nancy Lendrum

Ellen Doolin

Rebecca Waldenmaier

YOUTH COUNCIL

Gertrude Horl

Stephanie Scram

Chuck Conklin

Erin Rappaport

Kathy Stempel

WELCOME & GOOD LUCK TO MAPLE ON THE LAKE



Pictured here with their sons, Clay & Finn, are Chris and Amanda Smith. Previously owners of the Maple Inn on Main Street in East Berne, they moved their successful restaurant to the old Scholz's Hofbrau on Warner's Lake last fall. The newly renamed *Maple on the Lake* has been busy with old and new cus-

tomers. The owners have sponsored several winter sports events on the lake, including motorcycle races, car races and ice fishing contests. Many more events are being planned for the summer of 2015.

Maple on the Lake employs over 40 people including four cooks. It is an inspiration to see how Chris and Amanda's hard work has paid off. Be sure to stop by and enjoy lunch or dinner at the new Maple on the Lake.



Helderberg Haven.....

is a program available to Hilltown Seniors which is provided by Senior Services of Albany County and is designed as a place where seniors aged 60 and over can socialize and engage in recreational activities



together with their friends and neighbors. These activities include games, arts and crafts, movies and exercise activities. Located at the Helderberg Lutheran Church at 1728 Helderberg Trail, (Route 443), in the hamlet of Berne, it is a day program

which serves breakfast, lunch and a snack each day.

Program Manager Raphael Revella has announced that currently only open on Friday, Helderberg Haven will soon expand its program to include Tuesday and Thursday as well from 8:30 a.m. to4:30 p.m. Participants may come for the whole day, or choose to participate for only part of the day.

Manager Raphael Revella would like seniors to take advantage of the companionship and social recreational activities which enhance the quality of life in a safe, friendly and caring environment. She looks forward to hearing from local seniors and welcomes any suggestions of additional activities. In warmer weather, outings will include picnics, ice cream trips and trips to other Senior Services Centers of Albany. Transportation can be provided to and from the program; and funding is offered for those who are eligible Families are encouraged to call or stop by if there are questions.

Further information can be obtained by calling (518)-320-0316, by emailing at <u>rrevella@seniorservicesofalbany.com</u> or contacting the Senior Services of Albany Administrative office at (518) 694-3511.

HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

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Highway Superintendent~

January was a very busy month for the Highway Department due to the extreme weather. So far in the 2014/2015 season, approximately 400 tons of salt and 2000 tons of road mix have been used on town roads. Plans are underway to add three new trucks to our fleet.

The work force has increased to seven full time and five part time employees. Also time permitting, we have been sprucing up the building and cleaning up the yard. Plans are also in the works to install new garage doors on the pole barn. This will help maintain, protect & keep the equipment heated thus allowing the employees to get out on the road for clean up more quickly. It also will allow us to keep the equipment for a of longer time. A new pressure washer has been purchased and will be used to wash off the salt, thus extending the life of the fleet

I welcome calls from town residents and encourage anyone to call me personally if there are any problems that need to be addressed at (518)-573-3002. We strive to take care of the roads in a timely and quality manner.

~~Randy Bashwinger~~

News from the Transfer Station

NEW POLICY~~~

Effective immediately, the Transfer Station will not open on days that Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School is closed because of snow.

REMINDER ~~~~ TRANSPORTING TO THE TRANSFER STATION

State law mandates that it shall be unlawful to operate, on any public highway, any open truck or trailer being utilized for the transportation of any loose substances, unless said vehicle has a cover, tarpaulin or other device which completely in the opening on the truck or trailer so as to prevent the falling of any such substance.

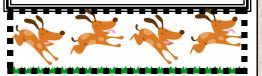
However, if the load is arranged so that no loose substance can fall from or blow out of the vehicle.

the covering is not necessary. This shall not apply to vehicles conveying "farm products."



ALBANY COUNTY **RABIES CLINIC**

The annual rabies clinics will be held at the Berne Highway garage On Saturday, March 21, 2015 1 to 2:30 PM for cats 2:30 to 4 PM for dogs Bring proof of prior vaccination. Animals must be leashed or in carriers. Donation — \$8 per animal Further info call 447-4620



New York State law requires that **ALL DOGS OVER THE AGE OF FOUR MONTHS MUST BE LICENSED** AND ALL **DOGS, CATS & FERRETS OVER THE AGE OF FOUR MONTHS MUST BE** VACCINATED **AGAINST RABIES**

Licenses can be obtained from the Town Clerk.

ASSESSOR'S NOTES GRIEVANCE DAY-May 26, 2015

Any person aggrieved by an assessment may file a complaint. The Board of Assessment Review meets the fourth Tuesday in May.

The assessment that may be reviewed is the assessment on the current tentative assessment roll which is completed by the assessor by May 1st of each year. A separate complaint should be filed for each separately assessed parcel.

The complaint must by filed with the assessor or the Board of Assessment Review in the town in which the property is located. The complaint may be mailed but it must be received by the assessor or Board of Assessment Review no later than the day the board meets to hear complaints.

Complaint forms are available at the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall or at the Assessor's office located at 1763 Helderberg Trail at the rear of the Library Building on Wednesday's 5:30 to 7 PM For further info please call the assessor's office at 872-1448. Ext: 107.

Did you know??

Property Tax Bills for 2015 are now available on line. They can be accessed through the Town website @ www.berneny.org by clicking on the tax collector's page, or by searching through www.egov.basny.com/berne.

COMING EVENTS



MAPLE WEEKEND

March 21-22 & 28-29 10 am to 4 pm each day 5K Sap Run 3/21

Pancake Breakfast served Each day

Free Samples, Free Tours Sponsored by

NYS Maple Producers Assn.. mapleweekend@nysmaple.com



THE FOX CREEK 5K RACE **BERNE TOWN PARK** Sat. AUGUST 8 @ 9 am Call 225-4925

To Volunteer **Sponsored by** L.E.A.P

TOWN OF BERNE SUMMERFEST AT BERNE TOWN PARK 10 am til -???

Saturday, August 22, 2015 **Further information** Call 872-2544



Community Survey for the Berne Public Library Long Range Planning

The Berne Public Library is committed to continually improving service to the towns of Berne and Knox. In order to do this, we need to know what services, materials and programs you currently use and what you would like to see provided or improved. Please fill out the following paper survey or fill out the online survey available from www.bernepubliclibrary.org. The data you provide will assist us in planning for the Library's future. We would like to thank you by placing your name in a drawing for movie tickets or dinner at Maple Inn on the Lake.

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1)	What a	age group are you in? Check one that a	pplie	es:			
	0	11 & under	0	26-35		0	56-65
	0	12-18	0	36-45		0	66-75
	0	19-25	0	46-55		0	76 and over
2)	How of	ften do you visit the Library? Check one	e tha	it applies:			
	0	daily	0	monthly		0	never
	0	weekly	0	rarely			
3)	Which	township do you live in? Check one th	iat aļ	oplies:			
	0	Berne	0	Knox		0	other
4)	When	would you be most likely to visit the lik	orary	?			
	0	Day(s)			0	Times(s)	
5)	What	are your reasons for visiting the Berne	Publ	lic Library? (Check all t	that apply:	
	0	check out books			0	use reference mate	rials and local
	0	check out music CD's				historical document	ts
	0	check out audio books			0	make photocopies/	send faxes
	0	check out movies on DVDs			0	print from compute	ers
	0	check out magazines			0	attend community i	meetings
	0	download free e-books/e-audiobooks	S		0	meet friends	
	0	study/research			0	attend young adult	programs
	0	use computers			0	attend adult progra	ms
	0	use the wifi			0	attend children's pr	ograms
	0	other			0	attend special even	ts
6)	If you o	don't use the Berne Public Library, why	don d	't you use it?	Check a	ll that apply:	
	0	I don't know what the Library offers.			0	I don't have transp	ortation.
	0	It is too far to travel.			0	The hours are inco	nvenient.
	0	I am too busy.			0	I use a different lib	rary.
	0	I get information from other sources.			0	I buy/rent what I n	eed.
	0	It is too difficult to use the Library.			0	Library does not ha	ave what I need/want

•	else would you like to see offered	at the Library? Check all that ag O Older adult programs	
0			·
0	Otner		
8) lami	nterested in (Check all that apply)		
0	learning about something (taki	ng a class, attending a lecture)	
0	learning how to do something	a craft, computer class, gaining s	kills in an art form, etc.)
0	opportunities to meet other pe	ople, share an experience (book	discussions, social, travel)
0	opportunities to do something	(volunteer, social change, comm	unity projects)
) What	suggestions do you have for impi	coving the Perne Public Library?	Shock all that apply
) VVIIat		-	
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0	, ,		
0	J		
0	Other (please specify)		
0) How (do you find out about Berne Publi	c Library programs and services?	Check all that apply:
0	Newspaper	0	Berne Public Library flyers & signs
0	Website	0	E- newsletter
0	Facebook	0	Berne Public Library staff
0	friends/neighbors		
0	other		
L) Additi	onal comments.		
ıank you	for taking the time to fill out this	survey. Please mail the survey to	Berne Public Library, P.O. Box 209,
	12023 or drop it off at the Berne		
To be			r, and your choice of a prize if you wir
			#
Circle	One: Movie Tickets to a Regal	Theater Gift Certificate	to the Maple Inn on the Lake

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BERNE LIBRARY NEWS

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS **INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

Story time for ages 1-5 – every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Memoir Writing for adults – 2nd &4th Wed. at 2:00 p.m.

Family Movie Night – 1st Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Teen Advisory Group – 2nd Friday at 6:30 p.m. **Lego Leagues for ages 5 - 12** – 3rd Sat. at 11 a.m.

Book Club for Adults – 1st Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Knit Wits for Adults – 3rd Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the monthly scheduled programs listed above, the library has special programs for each age group.

SPRING EVENTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Thursday, February 26 at 7 PM — Solar 101 - learn about solar power, incentives, and benefits

March 9-14 — Teen Tech Week

March 21, 1 to 5 PM — Needle Punched Rugs taught by Erin Bradt ... make a shamrock coaster

Introduction to Bee Keeping - Date to be announced



April 6 –10 (Spring Break Week) — Makerspace Program Friday, April 24 — Poetry Workshop and Open Mike Sunday, April 26 — Raising an Early Reader Baby Shower Monday, April 27 — One Room Schoolhouse -

presentation by Dan Driscoll Saturday, May 2 — Free Comic Book Day

Families are invited to use the community room for playtime on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:30, Thursdays 2-4 p.m., and Saturdays 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Toys, games, puzzles, Legos, Duplos, and dress up clothes are available for

More up-to-date information is on the library website or in the Berne Library column of the Altamont Enterprise.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LIBRARY USERS AND NON-USERS

The long range plan for the Berne Public Library had been to move to a bigger and better location. Now that the community has helped us accomplish this goal, it is time for a new plan. Enclosed in this issue of the Courier is a survey for the library. We ask that each person in the Berne and Knox community fill out a form and return it to the library by March 15, 2015. There are extra forms available at the town hall and the library if needed. There is also an on-line version available at our website

www.bernepubliclibrary.org for those who are tech savvy. Thank you for answering honestly. The data will be used to help the library improve community services.

Library Hours

Mon. & Wed 4-8 PM Tues. 10 AM. - 8 PM Thurs. 2 - 8 PMFriday—Closed Sat. 9—1 PM

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Thanks to continued community support, the Berne Library has been able to provide more services to the community. The Lasagna Dinner in November was a delicious success and the Cakewalk following the dinner was a lot of fun as the cakes were raffled off. The Giving Tree in the Library is another way that people can contribute to the support of the Library. Forms for obtaining a leaf or for membership in the Friends are in the Library. The support from the Friends recently allowed the Library to install shades on the west side of the building; and purchasing shades for the rest of the Library is the next project.

Follow through on that New Year's resolution to clean out cabinets, drawers and book shelves. Set aside books and jewelry that can be donated to the Friends of the Berne Library for the Used Book & Jewelry Sale. Donations may be dropped off at the Hilltown Senior Center, 1360 Helderberg Trail. Berne on Saturday. March 21 from 9 - noon. Other arrangements may be made by contacting Judy at 872-1246 or emailing director@bernepubliclibrary.org.

The Used Book and Jewelry Sale will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 9 - 4 and on Sunday, March 29 from 10-2 at the Hilltown Senior Center. Please come and support the library.

The Friends meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Berne Library. All are welcome to join.



Town of Berne PO Box 57 Berne, NY 12023



DIRECTORY OF TOWN OFFICIALS

TOWN OF BERNE

TOWN LIBRARY (PHONE) 872-1246 (FAX) 872-9024 TRANSFER STATION (PHONE) 872-0451

SUPERVISOR Kevin Crosier TOWN BOARD MEMBERS Joe Golden

Wayne Emory Karen Schimmer Dawn Jordan

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 Alan Rockmore
ZONING BOARD CHAIR Ronald Jordan
CONSERVATION BOARD CHAIR Kathleen Moore
ASSESSOR CHAIR Brian Crawford

BUILDING & ZONING Tim Lippert 339-6030 DOG CONTROL OFFICER Cheryl Baitholts 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
WEBSITE www.BerneNY.org

TOWN CLERK

Monday-Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM

Saturday 9 AM to 12 noon (except July)

After hours — by appointment.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Thursday 7-9 PM

Saturday 9 AM to 12 noon

TOWN BOARD

2nd Wednesday 7:30 PM

PLANNING BOARD

1st Thursday 7:00 PM

ZONING BOARD 7:00 PM

3rd Wednesday if, as, and when necessary

TOWN COURT HOURS

Tuesday 9 AM to 1 PM

TOWN COURT

Tuesday 5 PM

ASSESSOR

Wednesday 5:30 to 7 PM

(Located at the rear of the Library Building)

TRANSFER STATION

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