



TOWN OF BERNE COURIER

Vol. 40

News From Your Town Government

Winter/Spring 2016

One Hundred Years Ago

*One Hundred Years Ago—
From the Enterprise,
February - March, 1916.*

February gets off to a bang, literally, with an earthquake near midnight on the 2nd. In Altamont and nearby, a distant blasting sound is heard. In Schenectady, police are called in fear that there has been an explosion at the GE plant. No damage is reported. Those who wanted to talk about it by telephone may have followed the advice of New York Telephone to "speak directly into the transmitter [mouthpiece] to best be heard."

In Reidsville, the "ice men" have returned from cutting ice and are seeking other employment, and "La grippe" is there, in East Berne, and in Knox where nearly every family has the "grip." In mid-February, Berne reports a "very severe" cold wave with temperatures down to -12F and other places down to -24F, but the sleighing is good and the Berne Church nets \$12 from its clam chowder supper. It's a good time for hot percolator coffee from Lainhart's in Altamont at 30 cents a pound and for laying in dry hardwood, available from John Van Auken at \$6.50 a cord.

Cold weather means eating food for fuel, and the NYS Health Department says the average daily diet should contain about 2500 calories. A study of a large restaurant chain in New York City showed that for about 55 cents a day, a customer could get those calories with sufficient protein content, but if spending less than 50 cents, too many of the calories would have to come from desserts.

Cold weather continues into March, and Reidsville reports that several locals are working on the ice. Thompson's Lake says that Mrs. Eli Secor is hosting a quilting bee and March "did not come in very lamb-like" but with a heavy blizzard instead: three days of wind, drifting and impassible roads. East Berne reports 6-12 inches of snow and mailmen and stag-ers are unable to make their rounds.

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who make Berne such a wonderful place to live: our firefighters and rescue squad members who keep us safe; our countless volunteers who give of their time for many different projects such as our Senior Meal Program; Community Caregivers; our local church goers for programs such as No One Eats Alone and the community thrift shop; Friends of the Library; the Town of Berne employees (who do such a wonderful job with our parks, roads and buildings); and members of our appointed boards.



New Addition at the Berne Town Park

I would also like to thank the Town Hall staff, the Library staff and the Town Board for all their hard work as well. Everyone working together as a team makes Berne such a wonderful community. Above is a picture of our nearly completed Town Park pavilion which was built mostly by Town work forces. Final touches should be done by spring and it will be ready to use soon after! The pavilion will offer a summer kitchen and full handicapped accessible bathrooms. Thank you, Randy, and all the Highway guys for all the great work!

If you would like to be involved in a project or have an interest in helping out our Town, or just have an idea you would like to share, please call or stop by my office. Some of our best ideas come from our residents!

-Kevin Crozier

Rural Broadband Update



In cooperation with Assemblyman Santabarbara, Senator Amadore and our County Executive Dan McCoy, we are working on a wireless broadband project that could provide wireless internet to most residents in the Hilltowns. Working with our elected officials in Albany, we can now make this a reality. This broadband project is important to many residents and I will work along with the Town Board to see that this gets done.

-Kevin Crozier

(cont'd from page one)

Thompson's Lake adds that with the heavy snow and drifted roads, "we are almost isolated." But finally Berne announces, in the March 31st issue, "we are all glad to welcome the robin."

"La Grippe" is French for "influenza" and was used by Hilltown correspondents for a number of years. This 1916 Hilltown flu, first reported in the country in December of 1915, may or may not have been the precursor of the flu pandemic of 1918-1920. That virus killed at least 20 million people world-wide. (Centers for Disease Control, Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases, v. 12, no. 1, Jan. 2006. An excellent and sobering book about the great pandemic is The Great Influenza by John Barry.)

Contributed by George Christian,
Thompson's Lake

Fox Creek Market to Open its Doors Again



-According to new owner Ardi Cecunjanin, the business will soon be offering breakfast, lunch and dinner - to include a variety of Italian favorites, pizza and subs. Home essentials, grocery items and local and organic produce will also be offered.

Cecunjanin stated, "We look forward to seeing and meeting everyone at the grand opening and serving the community! Everyone has been so kind in welcoming us during the remodeling and we can't wait to get started!"

WINTERFEST 2016

PRAY FOR SNOW!! Our first Winterfest will be held February, 27th at the Game Farm Road Property. A day of winter fun is planned for all ages!

The Capital Region Nordic Alliance, in conjunction with the Game Farm Road Board, will host a 5k snowshoe race. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with the race to start at 10:00 a.m. All registered runners will receive a mug.



A community jaunt will begin at 10:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day. Explore the trails by snowshoe, moving at your own pace. Snowshoers of all abilities are welcome. If you don't have your own equipment, you can rent for just \$5 from Dion Snowshoes, one of the best snowshoe makers in the Northeast. Just walking the trail and taking in the view from the property is a great experience in itself.

There will be ice skating on the pond and sledding on the hill (hopefully!). A snow-sculpture contest for the artists in the area is being planned along with an Animal Presentation with Wildlife Rehabilitator Kelly Martin at noon and 2 p.m. in the Retreat House. The Retreat House will also be available as a warming hut and the Chuck Wagon Food Truck will be there to satisfy your hunger. Rather be outdoors? You can always warm yourself by the bonfire!

Helderberg Haven Adult Day Program

In February, the Helderberg Adult Day Program is moving to the Hilltown Senior Center at 1656 Helderberg Tr., where it will be operating on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. Free transportation to and from the program may be available.

For more information, come and visit or call Beth Owen at **518-694-3511**.

—Albany County Rabies Clinic—

The annual rabies clinics will be held at the Berne Highway Garage on Saturday, March 19th.

Please refer to the following schedule:

1:00-2:30 p.m. for cats 2:30-4:00 p.m. for dogs



Bring proof of prior vaccination. Animals must be leashed or in carriers.

Donation—\$8 per animal

For further information, please call the Town Clerk at 872-1448, ext. 101



New York State Law requires:

ALL DOGS OVER THE AGE OF FOUR MONTHS MUST BE LICENSED AND ALL DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS OVER THE AGE OF FOUR MONTHS MUST BE VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES.

Licenses can be obtained from the Town Clerk.

5K SNOWSHOE RACE & COMMUNITY SNOWSHOE JAUNT

Saturday, February 27, 2016

Game Farm Road Property, Game Farm Rd., Berne NY

Free community snowshoe walk/run/jogs begin anytime after 10:30 a.m. Snowshoers of any ability...kids, teens, adults and seniors...are encouraged to join us for a day of family fun while enjoying the beauty of our great outdoors!

Bring your own snowshoes or cross-country skis.

Ice skating, sledding and snow sculpture—weather permitting.

Race Registration: 9:00 a.m.—9:55 a.m.
(All registered racers will receive a special mug!)
Race Start: 10:00 a.m.
Adults: \$15.00
Youth (ages 8-17) \$10.00
Maximum: \$40/family
Snowshoe rental: \$5/pair for use all day



Race sponsored by The Capital Region Nordic Alliance

Anyone interested in attending an informal work-out group up here on the Hill, please contact Sarah Frantzen at 573-1886 or email Sparefran@hotmail.com



Town Supervisor Kevin Crosier and former Town Clerk Pat Favreau attended a retirement party for Fred Testa (second from right) on Jan. 27th. Fred was an integral part of helping Berne receive NY State financial assistance for its waste-water treatment facility. Also pictured is Milan Jackson of Lamont Engineering (left).

Electronic Recycling In a Changing Market

- As you may know, electronic recycling is a very changing market. On Jan. 1st, Maven, the company who used to pick up our electronics, dropped most towns in Albany County with no advanced notice. This left us with no choice but to stop taking electronics.

We have found a new vendor who will take our electronics at no charge to the Town. Last year, the Town recycled 27,000 lbs. of electronics.

Thank you Scott Green, our Recycling Coordinator, for keeping us up to date on recycling issues.

Please remember that a permit is required for Town residents who choose to use the transfer station. One can be picked up at Town Hall at no cost. Permits are needed to keep non-residents from tipping in our station and costing us all a lot more money.

Just a side note: In 2015, it cost the same to run the transfer station as it did in 1998. Recycling makes cents \$\$\$!

Highway Happenings



As of January 25th, 2016, we have used approximately 75 ton of salt and 150 ton of material. We are in very good shape so far. At this time last year we were well over 150 ton of salt and 500 ton of material.

Think spring! Our new plow trucks showed up in August and we have been very lucky with the

weather. We have added six more storage bays for vehicles to keep them dry. We also have a new loader coming in February to replace the 1999 well-used one. Please call with any concerns or questions.

-Randy Bashwinger 573-3002



Just want to say Thank You to the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Pre-K class for having us. We took equipment to the school and had both the morning and afternoon classes as our guests. The best thing was seeing the smiles of the young children as we showed them the trucks. A great day had by all! - Randy

**TRANSFER STATION
HOURS OF
OPERATION**
Monday.....4 PM to 8 PM
Wednesday....Noon to 8 PM
Saturday..... 8 AM to 4 PM
****Closed Holidays****

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Hilltowns Community Resource Center— We at the HCRC had another successful Christmas Adopt-a-Family program this past year. We would like to say thank you to everyone that supported our program. We could not run these events without support from our community and it warms our hearts to see how people reach out to lend a hand. Happy New Year to everyone and if you know someone in need in any way please contact us at the office at 797-5256 —Mary Beth Peterson & Misty Schaffer.

Community Caregivers—We are a volunteer-powered, non-profit organization that strives to assist individuals who need a little support to stay at home with dignity and maintain a good quality of life. We are “neighbors helping neighbors.” Please join us at a session to learn more about flexible volunteer opportunities that are in or near your hometown!

- Thursday, Feb. 18th at Noon
- Tuesday, March 1st at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, March 17th at Noon
- Tuesday, April 5th at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, April 21st at Noon

All orientations are held at the Community Caregivers Office, 2021 Western Ave., Suite 104, Albany, NY 12203 Please register ahead by calling the office at 456-2898 or sending an email to:
volunteer@communitycaregivers.org

Summerfest 2016!

Berne Town Park—Aug. 27th

Mark your calendars! Despite the cold, wind and potential for snow, Summerfest is not that far away!

Mary Alice Molgard is organizing a horseshoe tournament. Everyone is welcome! No need for a team or great skill! Call Mary Alice at 872-0206 to reserve your spot. All proceeds will benefit the Hilltown Regional Fire Training Center.

Vendor spaces are now available for Summerfest. Call Phyllis Johnson at 872-9370 to reserve your spot now.

Please plan on joining us on August, 27th!

Maple Weekends!

March 19&20, April 2&3

10am-4pm, each day

Free samples, Tours

Sponsored by

NYS Maple Producers Assoc.

5th Annual

Sap Run 5k!!

Saturday, March 19th

Start time—10 a.m.

www.SapRun5K.org



Berne Public Library—Read All About It

The Library Board started 2016 with a goodbye to two trustees who worked very hard to implement the move of the library to its current location. Thank you to Marsha Descartes for her fifteen years of service and Nancy Lendrum for her five years of service. The new trustees on the Berne Public Library Board are Ted Boyrs, Lisa Raymond, and Missy Worden. They join President JoAnne Brady, Vice President Becky Waldenmaier, Treasurer Janet Adams, Secretary Marion Burghart, and Trustee Ellen Doolin. You are encouraged to voice your concerns and suggestions to any member of the Board in addition to the library staff. If you would rather send an email, contact Judy Petrosillo at director@bernepubliclibrary.org or JoAnne Brady at Bradyj@bernepubliclibrary.org. We welcome your input.

As we embrace the new year, we look back on 2015 to see how well the library served the community and how it can improve. Statistics do not tell the entire picture, but they do provide an idea of what the library offered. Check out these numbers: 12,548 books, 323 audiobooks and 1,253 videos are in the library; 15,341 items were checked out; 14,313 people walked in the door; 4,307 items were lent to other libraries; 4,134 items were borrowed from other libraries; 501 people attended 61 adult programs; 84 people attended 14 teen programs; 1,838 people attended 116 children programs; and, 424 people attended 20 family programs.

To discover the 2016 programs, look at the Berne Library column in the Altamont Enterprise, sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter, pick up a monthly newsletter at the library, or check out our website www.bernepubliclibrary.org. Some upcoming special programs include the following:

- Thurs., February 18 – Jr. Chef Challenge – a Makerspace Program at 3:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 29 - Basics on Repairing Clocks at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 27 – a Makerspace Program (TBA) at 2 p.m.

Berne Public Library Monthly Programs

- 1st Monday – Children read to Ariel, our tail waggin’ tutor 4 to 6 p.m.
- Every Tuesday – Storytime for ages 1-5 at 10:30 a.m.
- 1st Wednesday – Friends of the Library meeting
- 1st Friday – Family Movie Night at 6:30 p.m.
- 1st Sunday - Book Club for Adults at 7 p.m.
- 2nd Thursday – Library Board of Trustee Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 2nd Friday – Teen Action Group at 6:30 p.m.
- 2nd Sunday – Game Night for Adults at 7 p.m.
- 3rd Sunday – Knit Wits at 7 p.m.
- 3rd Wednesday – Memoir Writing at 2 p.m.
- 4th Thursday – Paper Crafting at 7 p.m.



LIBRARY HOURS

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

Friends of the Berne Library

Check out the photographs entered in the Friends of the Berne Library Photography Contest displayed in the Library Community Room during the month of February. These photos will be judged by photography professionals and the public can vote for their favorites. The Friends will host a reception for winners and entrants on Saturday, February 27 @ 11 a.m.

Clean off those book shelves and bring your used books, audio books, CDs, and DVDs to the Berne Senior Center on Saturday, March 12 from 9-noon. At the same time go through your jewelry boxes and scarf collection to find items that you would like to donate to the sale. Then find some new-to-you items at the Book, Jewelry, and Scarves Sale on Saturday, March 19 from 9-4 and on Sunday, March 20 from 10-2.

In April the Friends, in cooperation with the BKW Art Department, will be sponsoring a Bowls for Books event. BKW students will be making ceramic bowls in art class. These bowls will be filled with soup/chili at the Library on Saturday, April 16 from noon-2. For \$10 you get a delicious lunch and you get to keep the ceramic bowl. Proceeds will be used for the Summer Reading program.

The Friends meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Community Room and we welcome you to join us. All proceeds raised by the Friends support the Berne Library. Please consider becoming a Friend for 2016: individual membership \$15 or family membership \$25. If you are able to help out with any of our events, we would welcome your support! Please contact Donna Gwin at 872-2161 or call the Library.

REMINDER: THE TRANSFER STATION IS NOT OPEN ON DAYS THAT BERNE-KNOX-WESTERLO CENTRAL SCHOOL IS CLOSED BECAUSE OF SNOW.



Town of Berne
 PO Box 57
 Berne, NY 12023

Visit our website at
www.berneny.org

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
	Anita Clayton
TOWN CLERK	Randy Bashwinger
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT	Albert E. Raymond
TOWN JUSTICE	Alan P. Zuk
TOWN JUSTICE	Stacy Loucks
COURT CLERK	Rick Rapp
PLANNING BOARD CHAIR	Ron Jordan
ZONING BOARD CHAIR	Kathleen Moore
CONSERVATION BOARD CHAIR	Brian Crawford
ASSESSOR	
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 9AM to noon
 (except July & August)

TOWN BOARD

2nd Wednesday 7:30 PM

PLANNING BOARD

1st Thursday 7 PM

TOWN COURT CLERK HOURS

Tuesday 9 AM TO 1 PM

TOWN COURT

Tuesday 5 PM

ASSESSOR

Wednesday 5:30 to 7 PM

(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