



# TOWN OF BERNE COURIER

Vol. 45

News From Your Town Government

Spring/Summer 2018

## Letter From The Supervisor

Hello and Happy New Year.

I hope everyone and everything is blossoming with new beginnings, much like I have been. The past three months for me have been eye opening, tough, uplifting, depressing, exciting, fascinating and inspiring. It has been filled with mistakes, learning, growth and compassion. I would like to thank everyone for their support.

First and foremost, I invite everyone to go up to Switzkill Farm, explore it and discover the awesome potential it holds for all of Berne. We can no longer look back, we must move forward together as a community to best utilize this amazing resource. It is my opinion that this is an excellent opportunity for our town, and the Farm has potential to bring great prosperity and growth to Berne. I also invite every resident to attend the Switzkill Farm Board (SFB) meetings. The SFB meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Lodge, 7pm. Only by participation can you get the real facts, provide real input and make the property benefit us all.

Some other improvements for the Switzkill Farm include the recent 5-year agreement to make a commitment to improve the grounds and quality of hay in the fields as well as other improvements. Programs to promote vegetable gardens with BKW and residents. Also started last year but underway now are preparations for a new roof and painting at the Lodge. The six buildings at Switzkill Farm have been given 911 identification. Previously 165 Game Farm Rd was the 911 address for all the buildings. This will increase fire protection from the great Berne Fire District.

We have made a commitment to safety and security. Myself along with the Town Board, the Building and Zoning Administrator and the Town Clerk

have worked tirelessly to improve ALL our buildings safety and security for the town workers, residents and visitors who use the facilities.

The Switzkill Farm's Lodge and Retreat house; The Community and Senior Center; Town Hall and the Library have been outfitted with new fire extinguishers, properly sized and typed for each location and mounted properly. Fire Alarm and sprinkler systems are in the process of being updated and brought back online.

Key control measures are also being implemented to increase security and safety of town property. We have been in contact with NYSDOH and Albany County DOH to ensure we are properly testing the water in our facilities and to ensure we are following proper permitting for our types of use. Water purification systems are being returned to service and

sewer systems are being tested and properly permitted. Regular scheduled inspections and maintenance of all our buildings and backup generators are being implemented.

Working with our Solid Waste Coordinator we have begun with

safety improvements at the transfer station to improve the conditions for the customers (the residents of Berne) and the workers. Slip control measures, eye wash safety stations, sanitary stations, fire control measures

and customer satisfaction improvements are just a few being implemented to make everyone's trip to the Berne Transfer Station more pleasant and safe.

Communities gain strength under the principals of neighbors helping neighbors, when we all can start setting aside times to help each other out we all will grow.

There are many ways to volunteer to help those in need in our town. Our Senior



## Town Recycling and How You Can Help

*Thanks again to all residents of Berne for your dedication and cooperation in reducing the amount of costly waste that we put in our landfills each year and your increasing efforts to recycle, reuse, and compost. Your efforts have increased the items we recycle and have reduced what residents pay to dispose of waste in our landfill.*

*Transfer Station staff are often asked about what items can or cannot be recycled. The following is a list of **some** of these commonly asked questions:*

*We do not recycle **plastic bags** as there are no recyclers that will accept them. Most of the big box stores will accept plastic bags as well as bread and sandwich bags and cereal box bags. Remember, paper bags are recycled in cardboard. This includes large paper feed and shavings bags. We receive a lot of pizza boxes. Please ensure that the boxes are fairly clean and that the foil, waxed paper and plastic have been removed.*

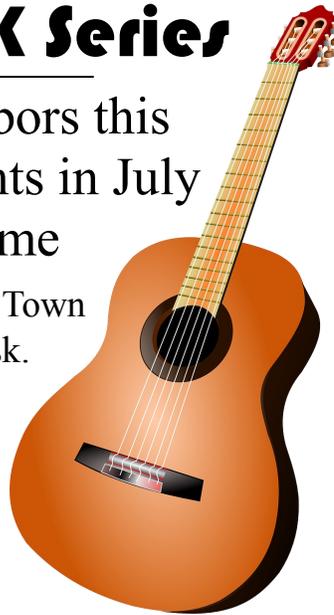
*We do not recycle alkaline **batteries** and it is legal to dispose of them in the trash. By State law, all other batteries including rechargeable batteries can be recycled at all businesses where they are sold. They can be disposed of at the transfer station, but it is costly. So if possible, please find a business that sells/accepts rechargeable batteries. All types of lighting from CFLs and fluorescent **bulbs** to mercury vapor and sodium must be properly recycled, and are accepted at the Transfer Station.*

*We recycle **clean motor oil**. The oil must be*



# MUSIC in the PARK Series

Join your friends and neighbors this summer on Wednesday nights in July and August for some awesome local talent! Show up at the Berne Town Park round 6:30 and plan to stay till dusk. Refreshments will be available for purchase thanks to the Friends of the Berne Public Library. This event has become a summer tradition so stop by and see what all the buzz is about!



(cont'd from pg. 1) Meals program delivers healthy meals to local seniors every Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Volunteers and guests are always encouraged. The Community Caregivers is an excellent opportunity for neighbors to help neighbors. (info on Town website) Our town has a long line of dedicated military service and many veterans live in Berne. There is an amazing service for veterans that offer new, top quality merchandise free in the retail store setting that is the Veteran's Miracle Center. ([www.vmcalbany.org](http://www.vmcalbany.org)) It is located in Albany and is ready to serve our veterans. They are always seeking veterans to serve and volunteers to help. Also, thru the Hilltown seniors we are able to deliver personal hygiene bags monthly to our neighbor veterans.

Just a few thoughts in conclusion; in order for us to better help you, we need your input to make the best of the great resources Berne has to offer. Your involvement will guide us into the future. The Town Board meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Town Hall, 7pm. Finally, I believe it is the input and participation from the great citizens in our Town that will make Berne grow. As Supervisor, working with the people is my focus for finding solutions



to provide a better, safer tomorrow for all our neighbors, residents, future residents and visitors.

Thank You and  
God Bless America  
- Sean S. Lyons, Supervisor

(cont'd from pg. 1) clean and free of water, antifreeze, dirt, and solvents of any kind as the oil is used by the Highway Department to heat the highway garage. The used oil is tested by the Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure that the oil contains no solvents or break fluids. It is very costly to dispose of contaminated motor oil. We love to have your waste oil but it must be clean. Please use clean containers to collect and store the oil and keep the containers out of the rain.

Remember that shredded paper must be left in tied bags when recycled and the bags must be see-through (no black bags). We have two 40-gallon containers that are always locked and kept in the transfer station which is locked when not in use. These containers are to be used to dispose of confidential paper that is not shredded. Please place only confidential paper in these bins as there is a cost to securely dispose of this item.

When placing co-mingled (plastic, glass, metal) in the bin it cannot be left in a bag because it makes it impossible to process later and will end up in a landfill. **Please do not crush plastic containers.** Whenever possible, leave the caps on which helps to maintain their shape which is required in the recycling process. A small amount of plastic items like caps can be placed in a colored (not clear) plastic container (e.g., colored detergent containers) with a screw on cap. This will ensure that these small items will be recycled.



Returnable for deposit bottles are being separated from the co-mingle and a returnable bottle business is paying the town for these items. Separate containers are provided to collect the deposit bottles, which include returnable cans, glass bottles and plastic water and soda bottles. The Town has made thousands of dollars

over the years for the deposit bottles, which helps to reduce Transfer Station costs and your effort to separate these is appreciated.

It is estimated that 30 percent of all garbage is food waste. Many states have or are in the process of eliminating food waste from landfills. Food waste along with yard waste can be composted. For those of you who have gardens, composting of food and yard waste will benefit you through reduced transfer station costs by reducing what goes into the landfill and giving you a healthier garden. Even if you do not have need of compost you can simply start a compost pile and add to it for years. There are pamphlets available at the transfer station on how to start composting.

Please feel free to ask transfer station staff any questions about what or how to recycle an item and thank you for your continued support and participation in the town's recycling program.

## \*\*TRANSFER STATION\*\*

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday.....4 PM to 8 PM

Wednesday.....Noon to 8 PM

Saturday..... 8 AM to 4 PM

Tires—\$2/each

Appliances with refrigerant  
and TV's—\$10/each

Please obtain permit(s) from Town Clerk during regular office hours. Closed during holidays, BKW snow days and power outages.

Check Town website for more info.  
[www.berneny.org](http://www.berneny.org)

## Annual Rabies Clinic is a Success!

On March 17th the Town of Berne and the Albany County Department of Health (DOH) hosted a rabies clinic at the Berne Highway garage. According to Marcia Marra, the director of Environmental Health Services for the DOH, 137 animals (73 dogs and 64 cats) were vaccinated during the three-hour clinic. Thank you to all who volunteered for this



important event!  
See you next year!

## Switzkill Farm

Berne's escape to the Helderbergs

### Calling All Green Thumbs!

The Town of Berne is considering opening a community garden at Switzkill Farm this spring.



Anyone interested in helping organize the effort or who would like to grow some veggies, please contact Anita Clayton at 518-872-1448. Extra produce from the garden will be donated back to the community.

## Breakfast And Snowshoeing at Switzkill Farm!

A fresh layer of snow coated the ground on a Saturday this March lending a sparkling aura to a day that began with a warm, hearty breakfast at Switzkill Farm. The fire in the large fossil-stone fireplace blazed as sixty friends and neighbors enjoyed pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs.



The newly fallen snow provided a glistening backdrop as a large party of snowshoers marched down the red trail to enjoy the beauty of the day. Avid hikers from all around also joined in the trek as well.

Thanks to all who worked to make this such a success and to Two Rock Farm for sausage and egg donations and Kevin Crosier for the maple syrup!

## Considering Construction, Subdividing or Opening a Business? Please Read This

Have you ever wondered if you need a permit to put up a shed, subdivide land or what the process is to open a business in the Town of Berne? These are frequent types of inquiries received by the Town Clerk and the staff of the Building and Zoning Department at Town Hall. Like many towns, Berne has a Building and Zoning Code in place to assist residents, business owners and those looking to purchase property in the town with these types of questions. Over the years, and with direct input from residents, zoning regulations have been adopted into law by the Berne Town Board. The process is ongoing and ever-changing, as recently demonstrated by the adoption of Solar Law regulations. While the Zoning and Building Administrator can often handle basic permits, some applications may require review by the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals. Each of these Boards consists of town residents, appointed by the Town Board, charged to interpret and carry out laws already in place. Additionally, these Boards also must follow Albany County and NYS regulations when considering applications, as well as hear from participants at public hearings.

If you are considering a change or use on your property that may need a permit or approval by one of these boards, please contact the Building and Zoning Dept. at 518-872-1448 extensions #104 or #106. You can also visit the Town of Berne website at [www.berneny.org](http://www.berneny.org) where you can access the full Town Code, application forms, fee schedules, meeting times and more. We also invite you to attend the monthly meetings of the Planning Board, 7pm at Town Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Understanding the process before starting your project often helps to avoid delays and unnecessary expenses. (Submitted by Debra Bajouwa, Planning Board Chair)



**Community Caregivers** is always seeking volunteers to assist in enabling individuals of all ages to maintain their independence, dignity and quality of life within their homes and communities. If you would like to help please contact:

info@communitycaregivers.org  
or call 518-456-2898  
or visit the website:

[www.communitycaregivers.org](http://www.communitycaregivers.org)

Thank you so much for your help! It is appreciated!



### Judy Petrosillo receives recognition

from the Town for her many years of service as Director of Berne's Public Library. Here, Judy receives a Proclamation from the Town Board presented by Town Council Member Karen Schimmer (right). Judy helped expand Library programming, received over \$240k in grants, provided outreach to the BKW School District, and helped coordinate the Library's move to its current location from Town Hall in 2013. Thank you Judy for your years of dedication and service! Stop by the library to congratulate a familiar face - Kathy Stempel has been appointed the new Library Manager! We wish Judy and Kathy all the best going forward!



## NYS Burn Ban In Effect

The NYS Department of Conservation has implemented a ban on residential brush burning through May 14th across the state. According to the department, the start of spring weather and the potential for dry conditions increases the risk for wildfires. And, in the eight-year period since the ban was established, the average number of spring fires per year has decreased by 37%. Violators of the open burning regulation are subject to enforcement actions with a minimum fine of \$500 for a first offense.



## Iroquois Pipeline Right-of-Way Assessment Planned

Residents who have part of their property in the Iroquois Pipeline right-of-way, can expect to have representatives from the Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company surveying sometime this spring. All contractors will carry identification authorizing their presence on the property. A walking assessment of the pipeline route with portable leak detection equipment will be conducted. Digs will be done at some locations to verify data obtained from an internal inspection device and to assess the pipeline coating condition.

### Contact Information

Gas Emergencies: 800-888-3982  
Landowners Non-Emergency  
Hotline: 800-253-5152  
Spencer Robinson, ROW Manager  
spencer\_robinson@iroquois.com  
518-669-9748

The greatest risk for pipeline damage is unintentional third party intrusion or excavation. Be sure to check!

### Call Before You Dig Numbers:

Nationwide: 811  
New York State: 800-962-7962

**"Our Heritage, A History of the Town of Berne"** is being donated to the Daughters of the Revolution for its permanent library collection in Washington, DC. Thank you to Shelly Taylor of Belleville, Illinois, who made the contribution!

## Memorial Day Parade

The annual Town of Berne Memorial Day Parade is planned for Monday, May 28th. Routes 443 and 156 will be closed in and near the hamlet from 9:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Marching bands, floats, local fire departments and more will fill the streets to respect those in the military who lost their lives while actively serving this country. Presentations and float competition winners will be announced after the parade at BKW.



*Please remember to have your dog licensed.*

## Lunch is Served!

Every Monday, Tuesday and Friday local senior citizens are invited to join neighbors and friends at noon for lunch. Located at the Berne Senior and Community Center, 1360

Helderberg Trail. For reservations, please call Karen Stark at 518-937-5963 by 10 a.m. the day before the meal. Sealed donations are accepted. For more info. please visit the Berne website: [www.berneny.org](http://www.berneny.org)

Senior  
Services  
of Albany

Offering Choice, Independence  
and Dignity

## Berne Public Library—Read All About It

Here are some of the great programs you can expect from your library this spring and summer.

- Through May 4th: Erie Canal Exhibit in Community Room
- May TBD: Citizen Preparedness Training, families are encouraged
- May 19th 11 p.m.: Dare to Prepare Your Screens and small appliances
- June 1st: Award-winning author Julie Fogliano
- June 15th, 7-8 p.m. Speed Dating, ages 18-40
- June 25th at 7 p.m.: Summer Kick-Off Performance by Bells and Motley. **Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal** is a family participatory operetta.
- July 21st, 10 a.m.-12, Dare to Repair Bikes and Camping Equip.
- July—August: Music in the Park Series every Wednesday, featuring *Just a Bunch of Guys*, *Two's Company*, and *The Bluestones*.
- Aug. 11th, 10 a.m.-12, Dare to Repair: Mending & Sewing
- September 22nd: **HelderCon** in the Berne Town Park

### 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



*Please drop by the library whenever you can! We love to see you!*

### The Friends of the Berne Public Library

invite you to visit the Art Gallery in the Community Room at the Berne Library. Currently we have a display from the art students in the BKW high school. Heidi Johnson, HS art teacher, coordinated the display with Berne Library Friend Ann Hein. A display of art work by BKW elementary and middle school students is planned for May. If you have art work you would like to display in the Art Gallery please contact Ann Hein at [ahein6711@yahoo.com](mailto:ahein6711@yahoo.com) or leave your name at the library and Ann will contact you. We want like to showcase the talents of our community.

On May 21 author Candace Christiansen will speak at school to the BKW 4<sup>th</sup> graders and then to the community at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Candace is the author of *Calico and Tin Horns*, a children's book about the Anti-Rent wars. Candace's visit is in coordination with the Hilltowns Regional Historical Summit group. This group of local historical societies is participating in NYS Path Through History and has as its theme the Anti-Rent wars. Candace's talk will be the perfect introduction to this topic. Hope you can join us for this event. Candace's books are out-of-print, but can be purchased online, and she will be happy to sign any

books that you bring to the event.

Now that spring is officially here take a walk in our beautiful town park and read a story on the StoryWalk © trail. The stories change periodically and currently we are displaying *Calico and Tin Horns* by Candace Christiansen. The Knox StoryWalk © features *The Ice Horse* also by Candace Christiansen, a story about ice harvesting. Enjoy good stories and the fresh air!

Don't forget to take advantage of passes that the Berne Library provides to its patrons. Passes to MiSci, The Clark Institute, and the USS Slater can be borrowed with your library card. Presenting your library card at the Via Aquarium in Rotterdam entitles you to a \$2 discount on your entrance fee.

The Friends are now maintaining the Hilltown Community Calendar. Check this calendar to find out about the happenings in our area. If you have an event you would like to have added to the calendar, email the Friends at [bernelibraryfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:bernelibraryfriends@yahoo.com).

The Berne Library Friends meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the community room at the library. Please join us!

Donna Gwin,  
Pres. Friends of the Berne Library

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

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

**Teen Action Group (TAG)**- teen second Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

**Book Club** - adult book discussion - first Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Knit Wits** - adult knitting and crocheting - third Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**Library Trustees Meeting** - 2nd Thursday of the month

**Friends of the Library Meeting** - 1st Wednesday of the month





Town of Berne  
 PO Box 57  
 Berne, NY 12023

**Visit our website:**  
[www.berneny.org](http://www.berneny.org)

**TOWN DIRECTORY:**

TOWN of BERNE—ALL DEPARTMENTS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ 518-872-1448  
 TOWN HALL FAX \_\_\_\_\_ 518-872-9303  
 TOWN OF BERNE LIBRARY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ 518-872-1246  
 FAX \_\_\_\_\_ 518-872-9024  
 HIGHWAY GARAGE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ 518-872-1448 EXT 108  
 FAX \_\_\_\_\_ 518-872-9563

SUPERVISOR Sean Lyons  
 TOWN BOARD MEMBERS: Karen Schimmer, Dawn Jordan,  
 Dennis Palow, Joel Willsey

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 Debra Bajouwa  
 ZONING BOARD CHAIR Ron Jordan  
 CONSERVATION BOARD CHAIR Kathleen Moore  
 SWITZKILL BOARD CHAIR Ted Kunker  
 ASSESSOR Brian Crawford  
 YOUTH COUNCIL CHAIR Jean Guarino

SEWER DISTRICT ISSUES/EMERGENCIES Sean Lyons 518-801-4569  
 BUILDING & ZONING Chance Townsend 518-225-3721  
 DOG CONTROL OFFICER Cheryl Baitsholts 518-728-8082  
 TAX COLLECTOR Gerald O'Malley 518-872-0331  
 TOWN HISTORIAN Kathleen Putzig 585-752-5822

BERNE POST OFFICE 518-872-0424  
 EAST BERNE POST OFFICE 518-872-1244

TOWN CLERK

Monday-Wednesday 8 AM-3 PM  
 Thursday 8 AM- 2 PM  
 Saturday 9 AM-noon  
 (Closed Saturdays, July—August 11th)  
*Evenings by appointment*

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Thursday 7-9 PM  
 Saturday 9 AM-noon

TOWN BOARD

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:30 PM

PLANNING BOARD

1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Thursday (as needed) 7 PM

TOWN COURT CLERK HOURS

Tuesday 9 AM TO 1 PM

TOWN COURT

Tuesday 5 PM

ASSESSOR

Wednesday 5:30 to 7 PM

Located at Town Library Building

TRANSFER STATION

Monday 4 PM to 8 PM  
 Wednesday Noon to 8 PM  
 Saturday 8 AM to 4 PM  
*Permit Required—Obtain from Town Clerk*